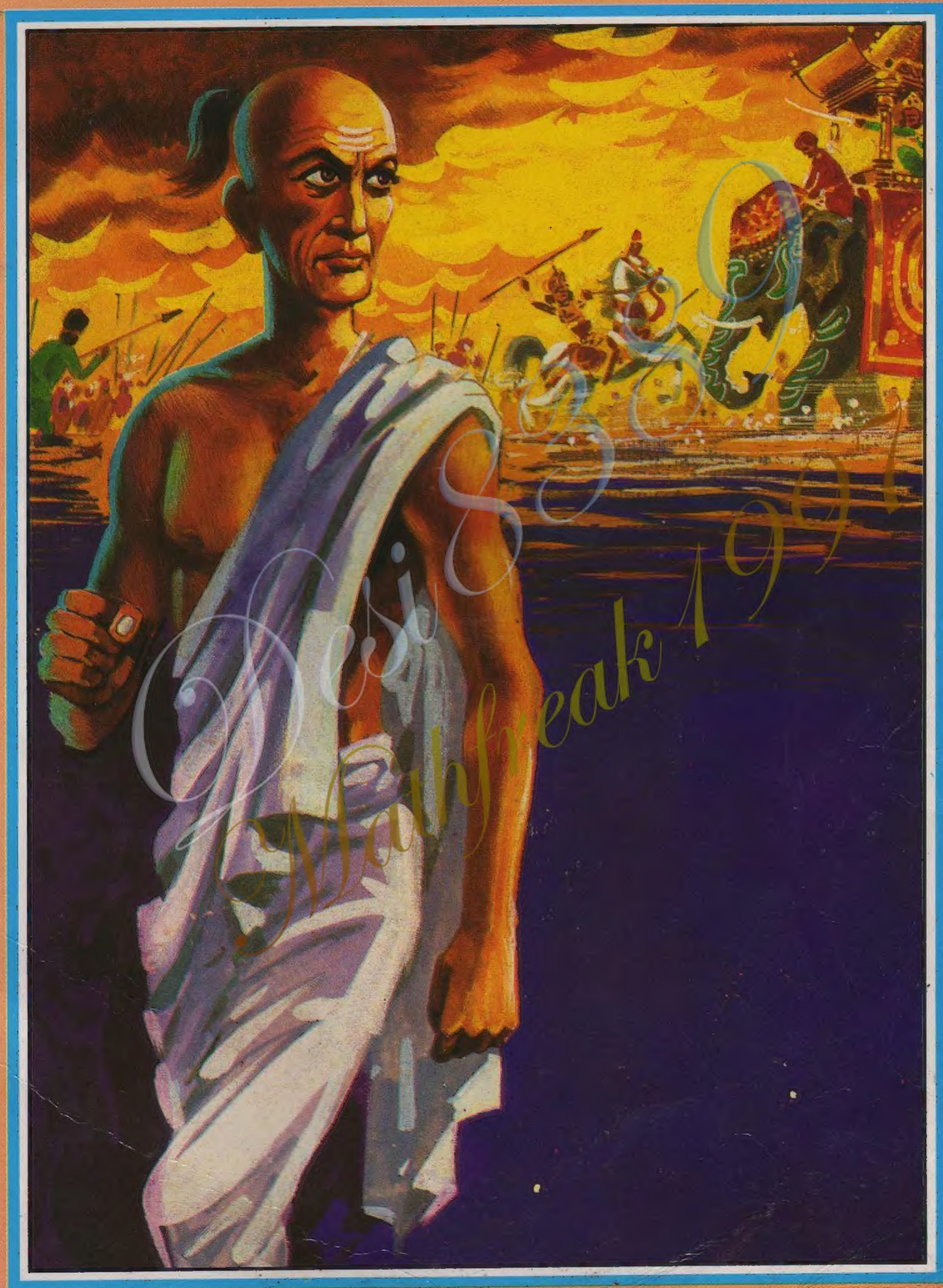




# Chamakya

Vol. 508 Rs. 25



Amar Chitra Katha: the Glorious Heritage of India





# Chanakya

Chanakya also known as Kautilya, the hero of this story is the author of the well-known Sanskrit classic *Arthashastra*.

Chanakya helped Chandragupta, the founder of the Mauryan dynasty, in gaining the throne of the Nandas. According to many scholars, Chandragupta's success as a king can be ascribed to Chanakya's advice and guidance.

According to Chanakya, the king at the time of coronation had to take an oath of service to the people. If the king misbehaved, his people had the right to remove and replace him.

Kautilya's *Arthashastra* is a book on public administration. It discusses the duties as well as the rights of kings, ministers and other officers. It lays down the details on the various affairs of the state, of trade and commerce, of law, of war and peace, of diplomacy, of marriage and divorce, and of military strategy. *Arthashastra* still remains an excellent textbook of political diplomacy.

The story retold here is inspired by the classic Sanskrit play *Mudra Rakshasam* (The signet ring) written in the 9th Century A.D. by Vishakhadatta of Pataliputra which is believed to be the city of Patna today.



Script: Yagya Sharma

Artwork; Ram Waeerker

**Editor : Anant Pai**

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# CHANDRAKHYA

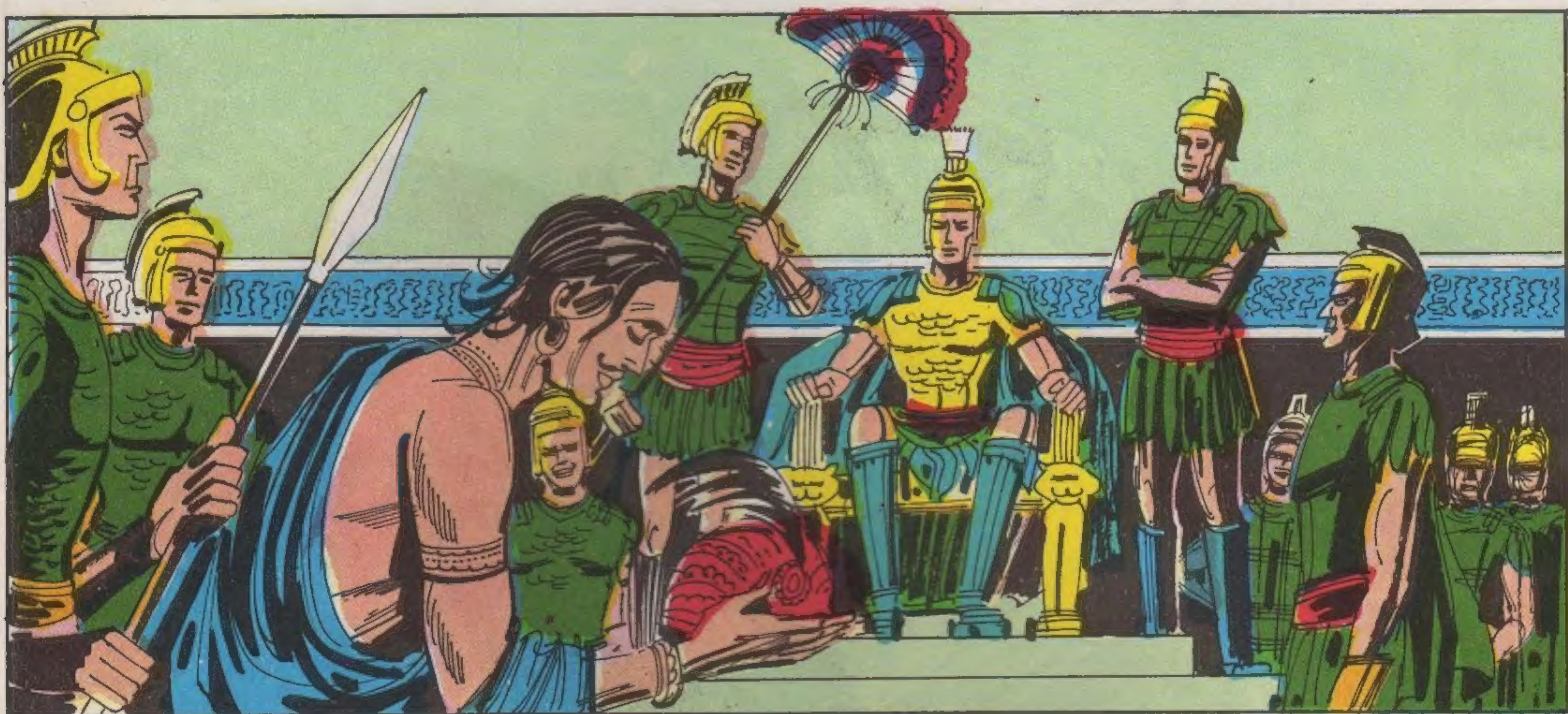
ABOUT 2,500 YEARS AGO  
ALEXANDER THE GREAT  
INVADED INDIA.



• EDITOR - ANANT PAI • RETOLD BY - YAGYA SHARMA • ARTWORK - RAM WAEERKAR



ALEXANDER DEFEATED MANY SMALL  
DISUNITED INDIAN KINGDOMS.



A BRAHMAN TEACHER NAMED CHANAKYA  
WAS WORRIED ABOUT HIS PUPILS.



WHY HAVE  
THE OTHERS  
NOT COME?

THEY ARE  
AFRAID OF  
THE ENEMY  
SOLDIERS,  
SIR.

INDIA MUST BE UNITED  
TO GET RID OF THE FOREIGN  
AGGRESSOR. I  
SHALL WORK  
TOWARDS  
BUILDING A  
STRONG  
EMPIRE.





A FEW DAYS LATER, SHAKTAR, A MINISTER OF MAGADHA, THEN THE LARGEST KINGDOM OF INDIA, WAS STARTLED AS HE PASSED CHANAKYA'S ASHRAM.



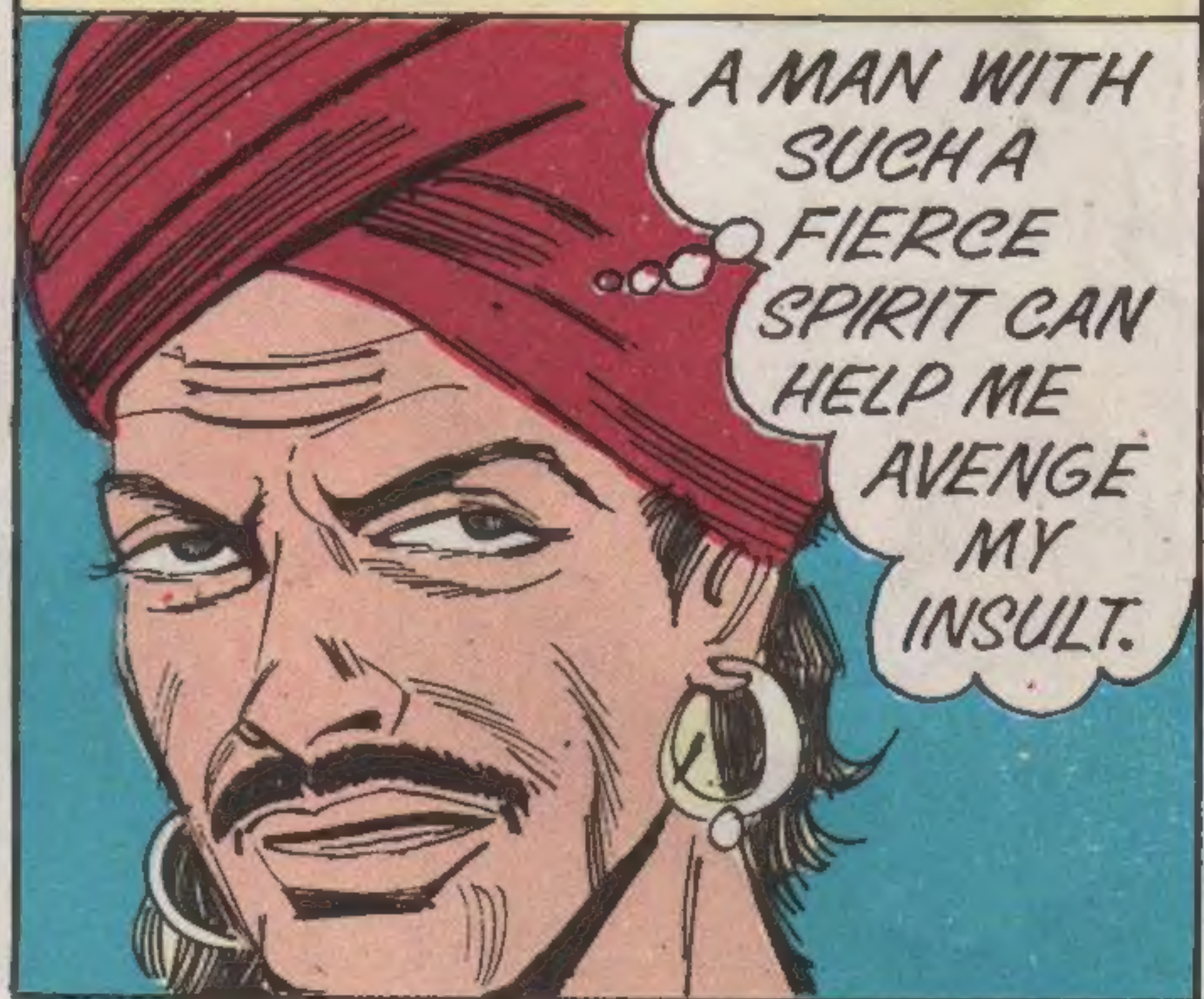
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SIR?

THIS STUPID GRASS HURTS MY FEET. I AM GOING TO DESTROY IT.



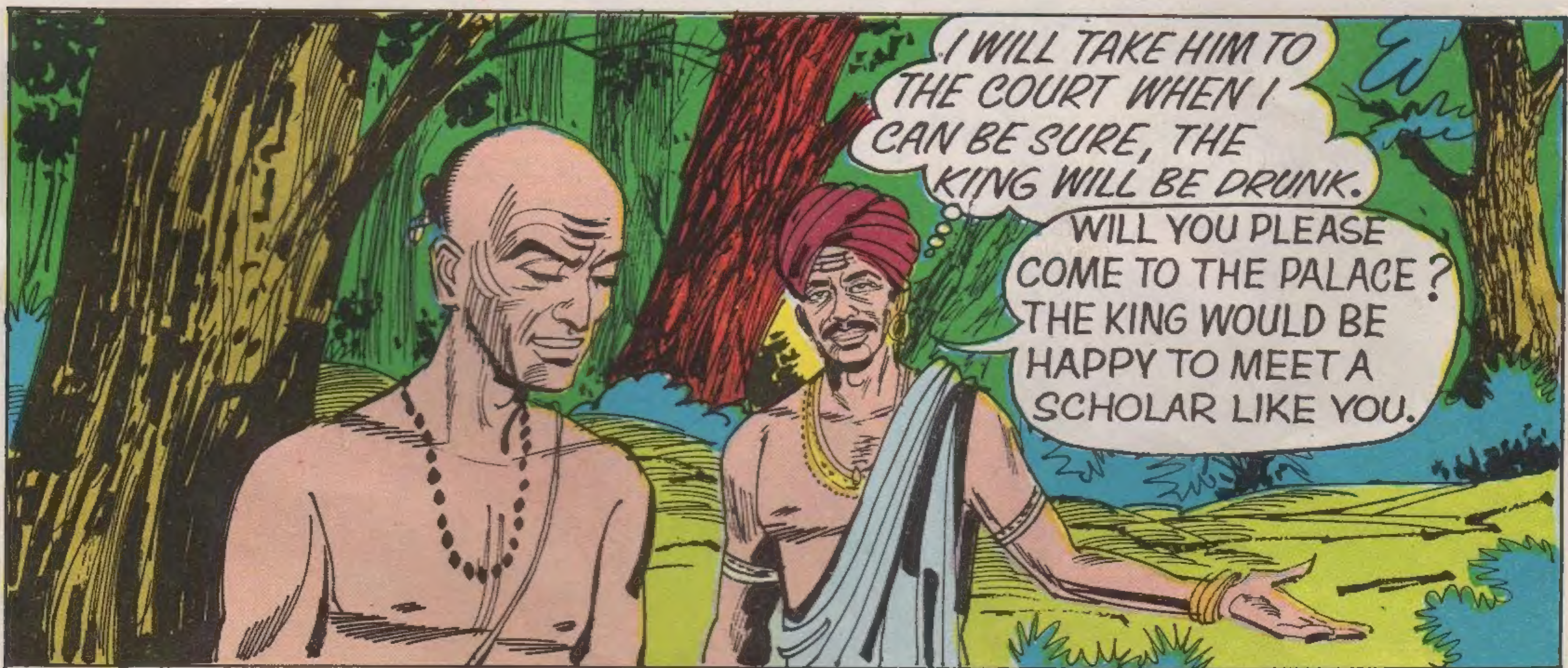
SHAKTAR HAD RECENTLY BEEN INSULTED BY HIS KING, DHANANANDA OF MAGADHA.

A MAN WITH SUCH A FIERCE SPIRIT CAN HELP ME AVENGE MY INSULT.

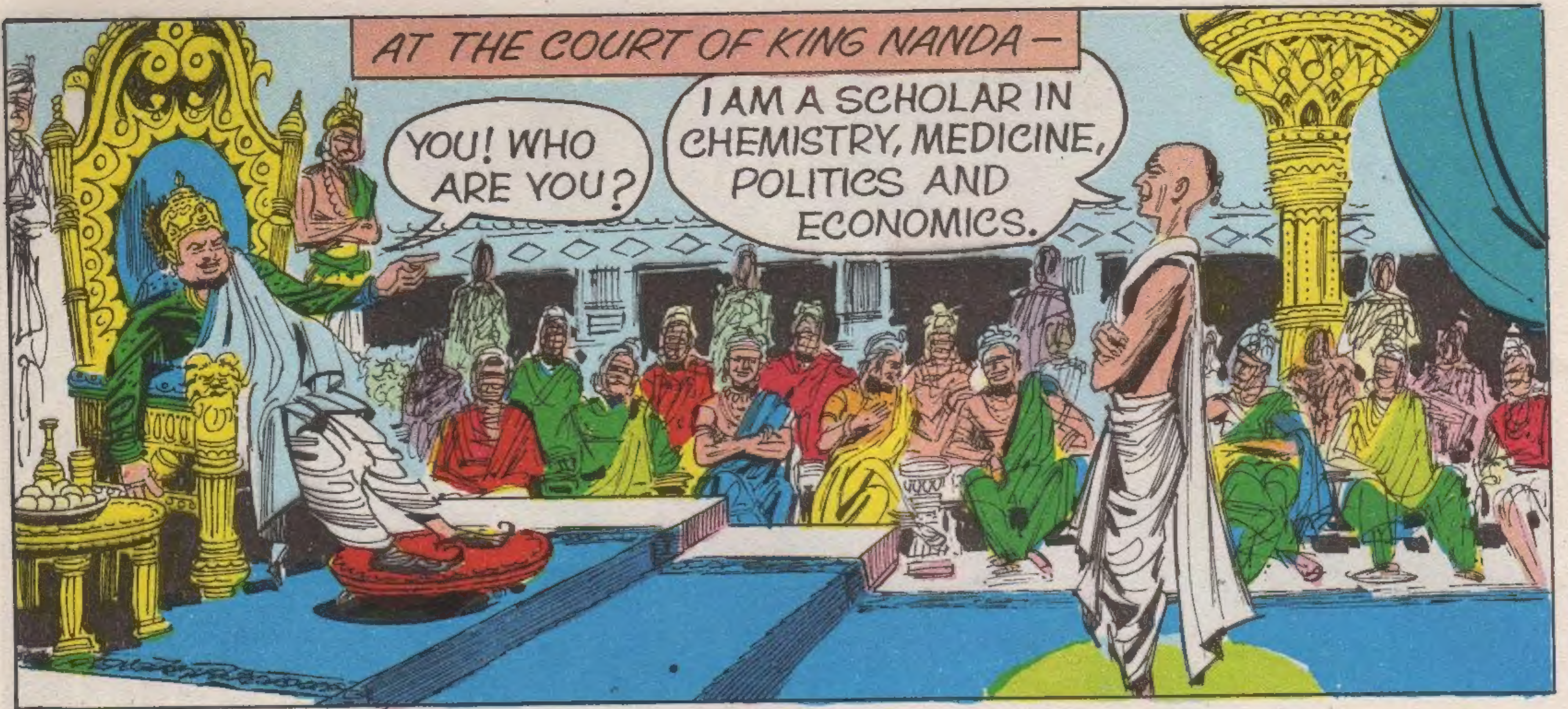


I WILL TAKE HIM TO THE COURT WHEN I CAN BE SURE, THE KING WILL BE DRUNK.

WILL YOU PLEASE COME TO THE PALACE? THE KING WOULD BE HAPPY TO MEET A SCHOLAR LIKE YOU.







AT THE COURT OF KING NANDA -

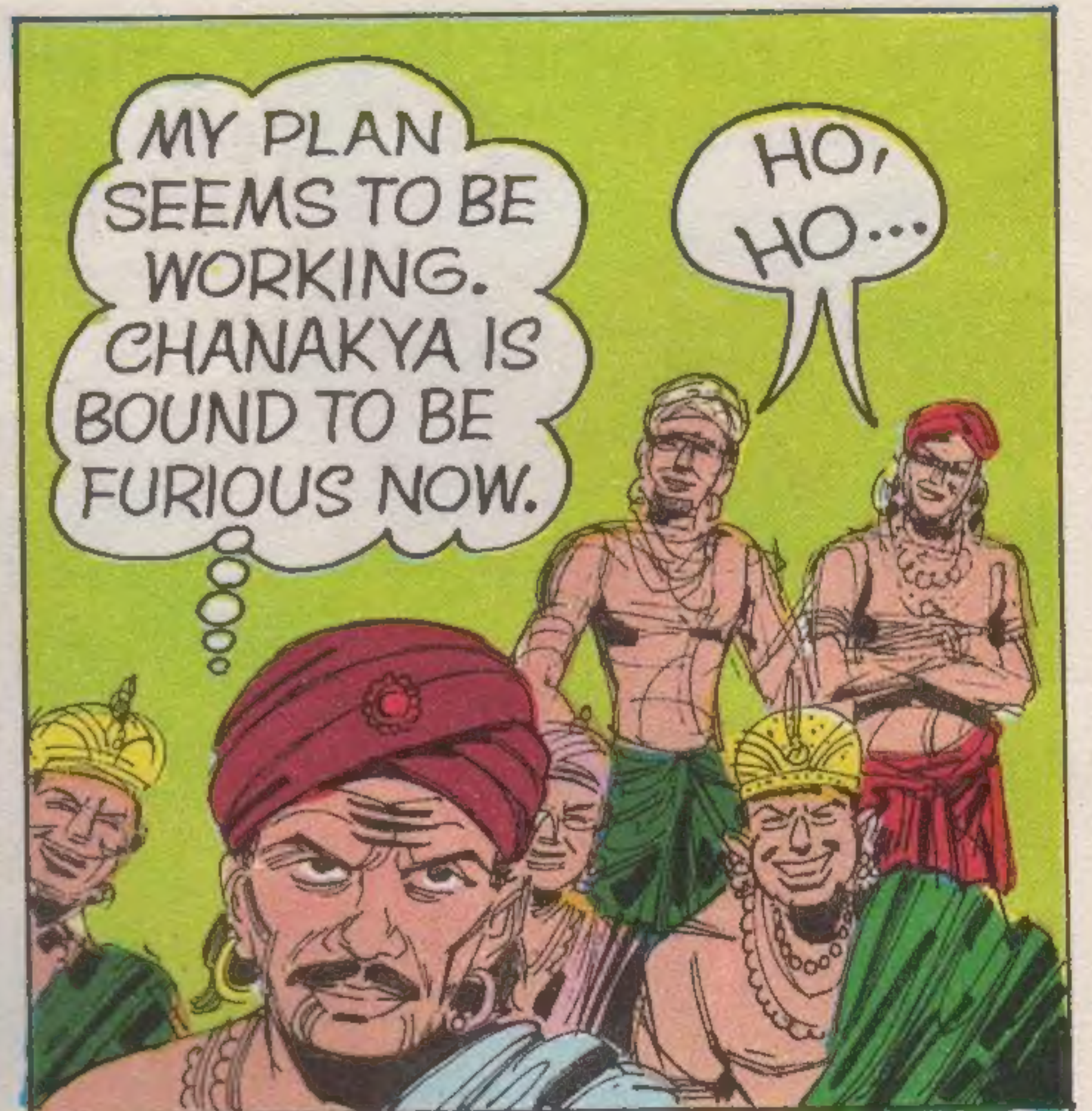
YOU! WHO ARE YOU?

I AM A SCHOLAR IN CHEMISTRY, MEDICINE, POLITICS AND ECONOMICS.



HO! HO! RAKSHAS, LOOK AT THAT STUPID LOOKING SCHOLAR.

MAHARAJ, DON'T INSULT A LEARNED BRAHMAN.

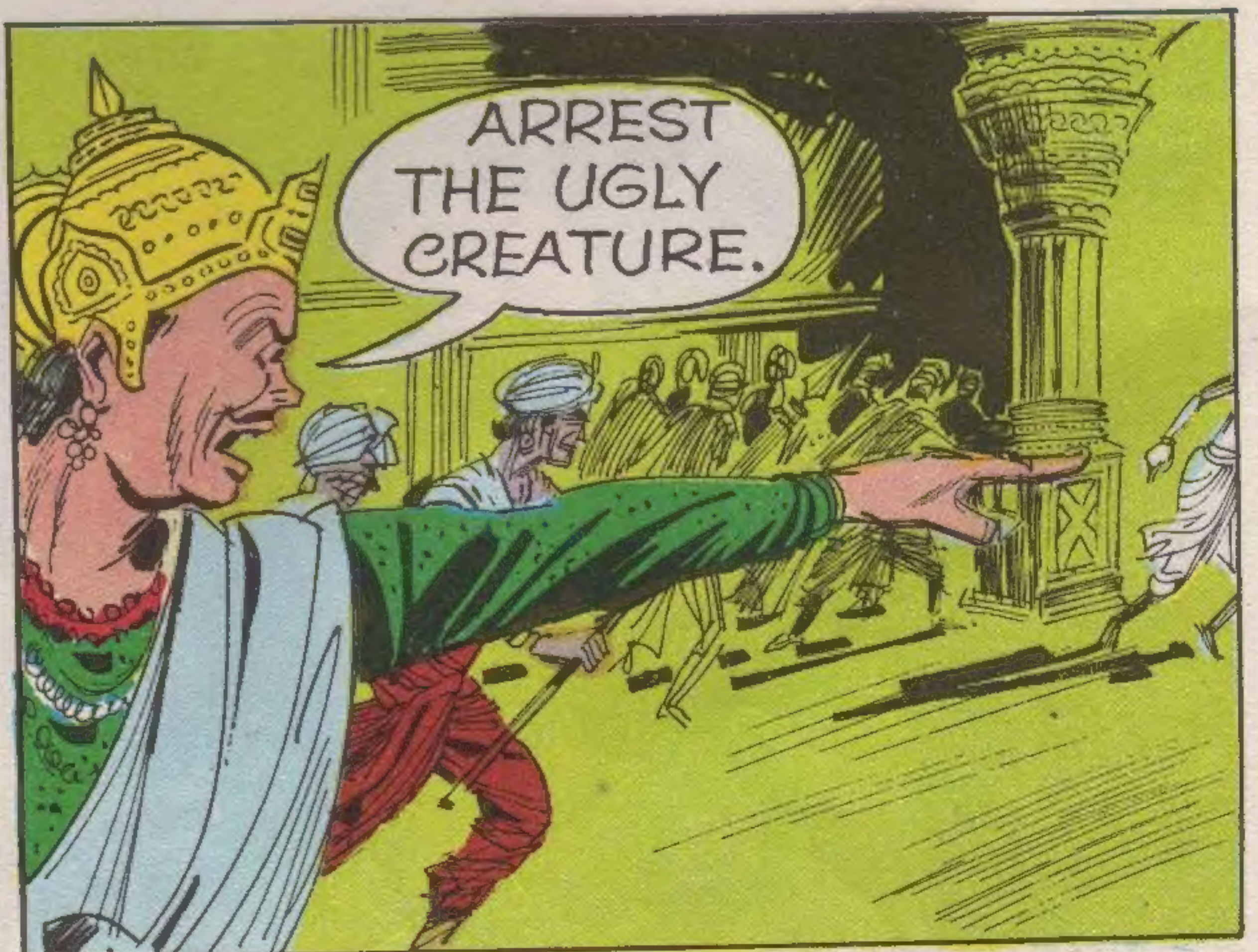


MY PLAN SEEMS TO BE WORKING. CHANAKYA IS BOUND TO BE FURIOUS NOW.

HO, HO...

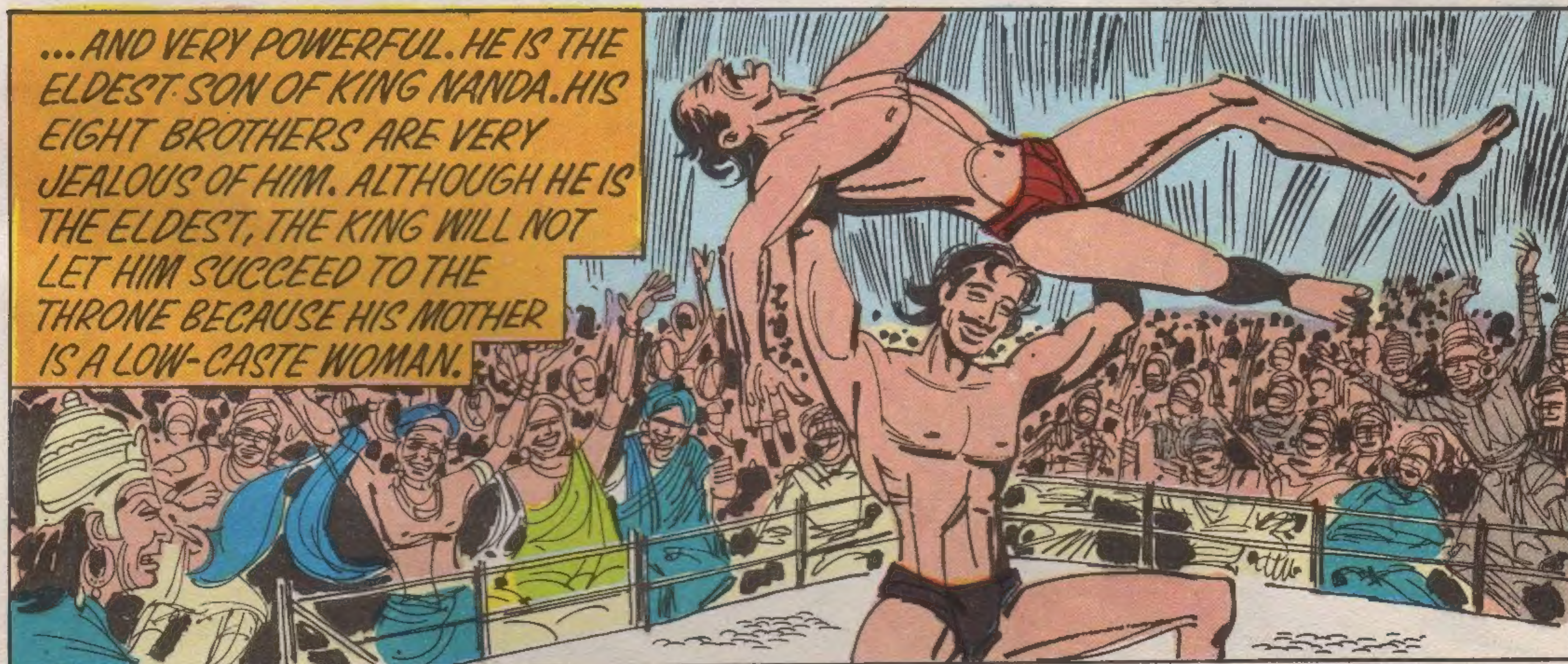
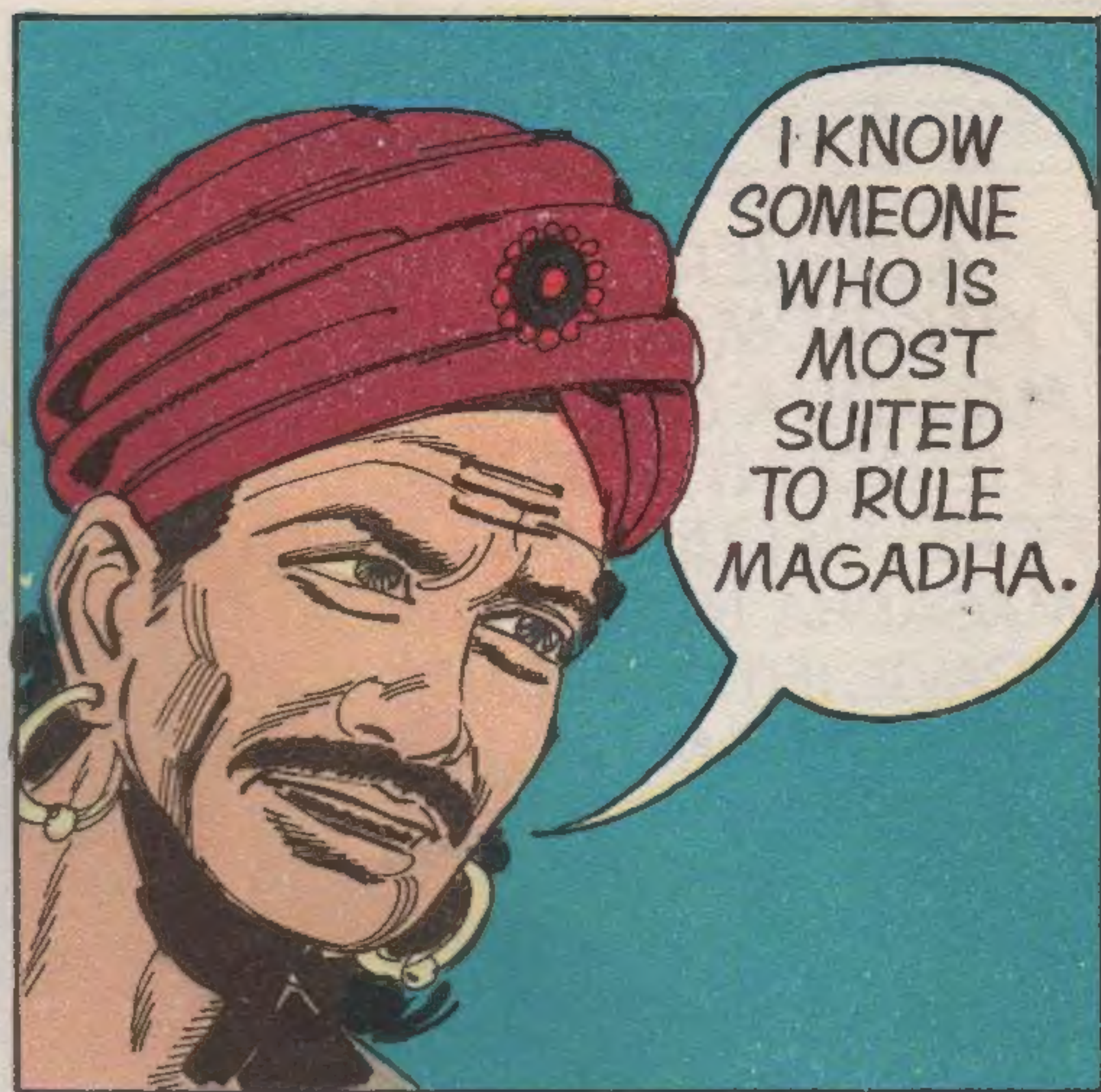
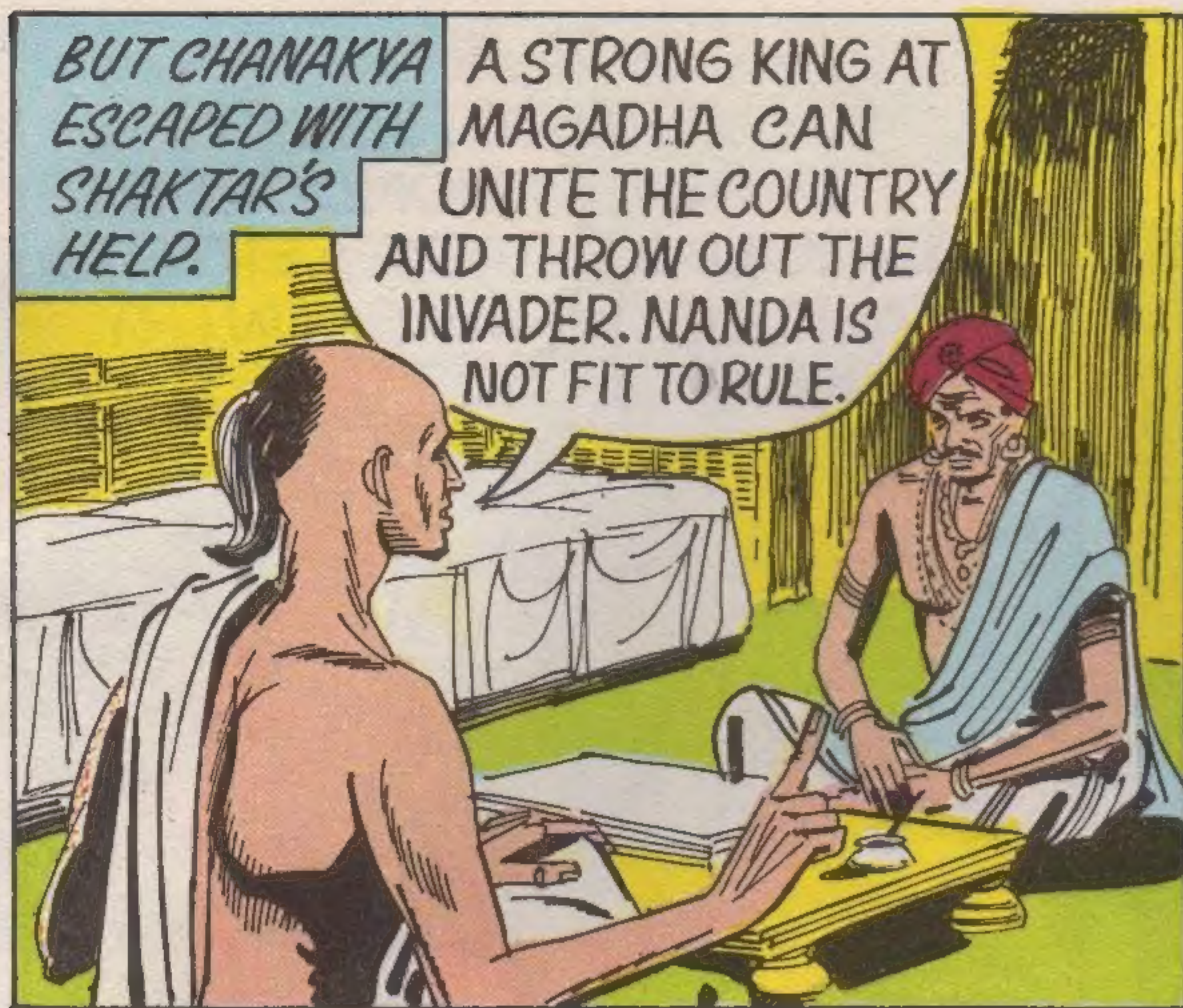


O! IMPUDENT KING, FOR THIS INSULT I PLEDGE THAT I WILL DESTROY YOU AND ALL YOUR SONS. THEN ONLY WILL I TIE BACK MY SHIKHA.



ARREST THE UGLY CREATURE.

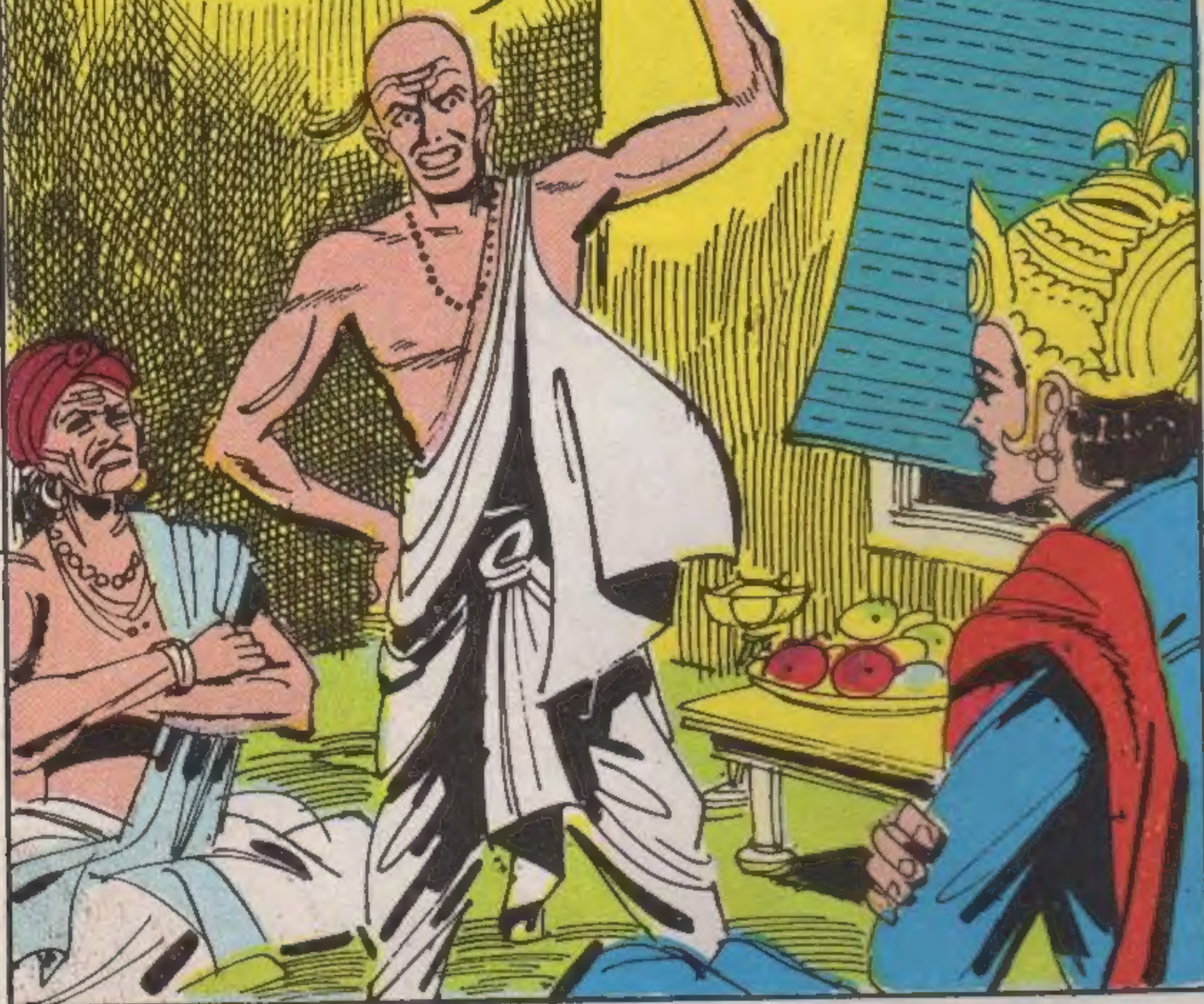






CHANAKYA AND SHAKTAR HAD A MEETING WITH CHANDRAGUPTA.

A POWERFUL KINGDOM LIKE MAGADHA CAN FREE THE COUNTRY FROM FOREIGN RULE. FOR THIS, MAGADHA NEEDS A BRAVE, INTELLIGENT AND DYNAMIC NEW KING.



AND YOU SHALL BE THE NEW KING.

I WILL BE HONoured TO SERVE MY COUNTRY.



WELL THEN, GO AND RAISE AN ARMY TO DEFEAT NANDA.





CHANDRAGUPTA TOLD THE  
SUFFERING PEASANTS OF THE  
STUPIDITY OF KING NANDA.



OUR  
COUNTRY  
IS IN  
GRAVE  
DANGER.



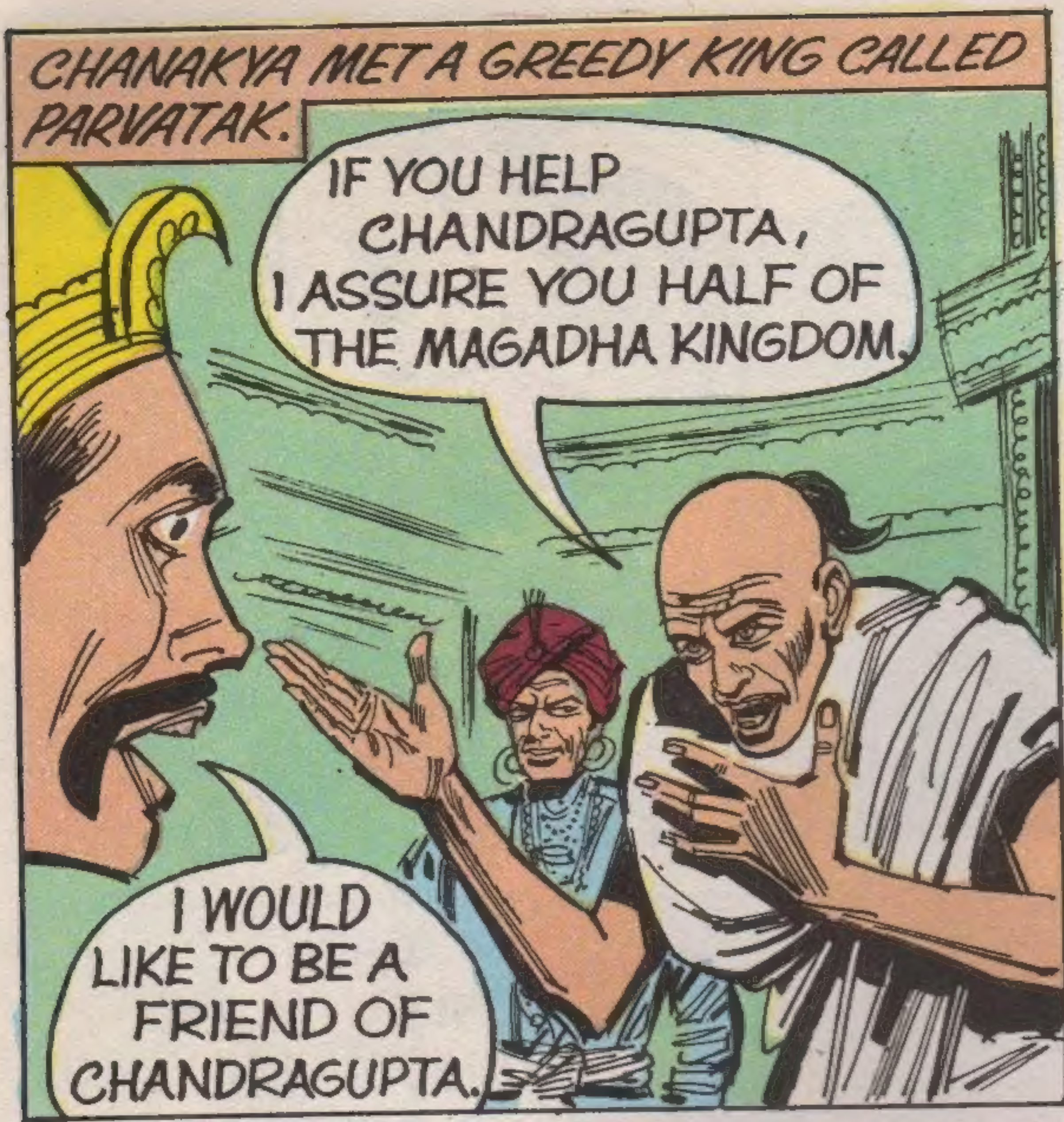
MAGADHA IS THE  
ONLY STRONG  
KINGDOM, WHICH CAN  
FACE THE CHALLENGE  
POSED BY FOREIGN  
INVASION. BUT THE  
REINS OF MAGADHA  
MUST BE IN  
STRONGER  
HANDS.

THUS HE WON MANY FOLLOWERS.



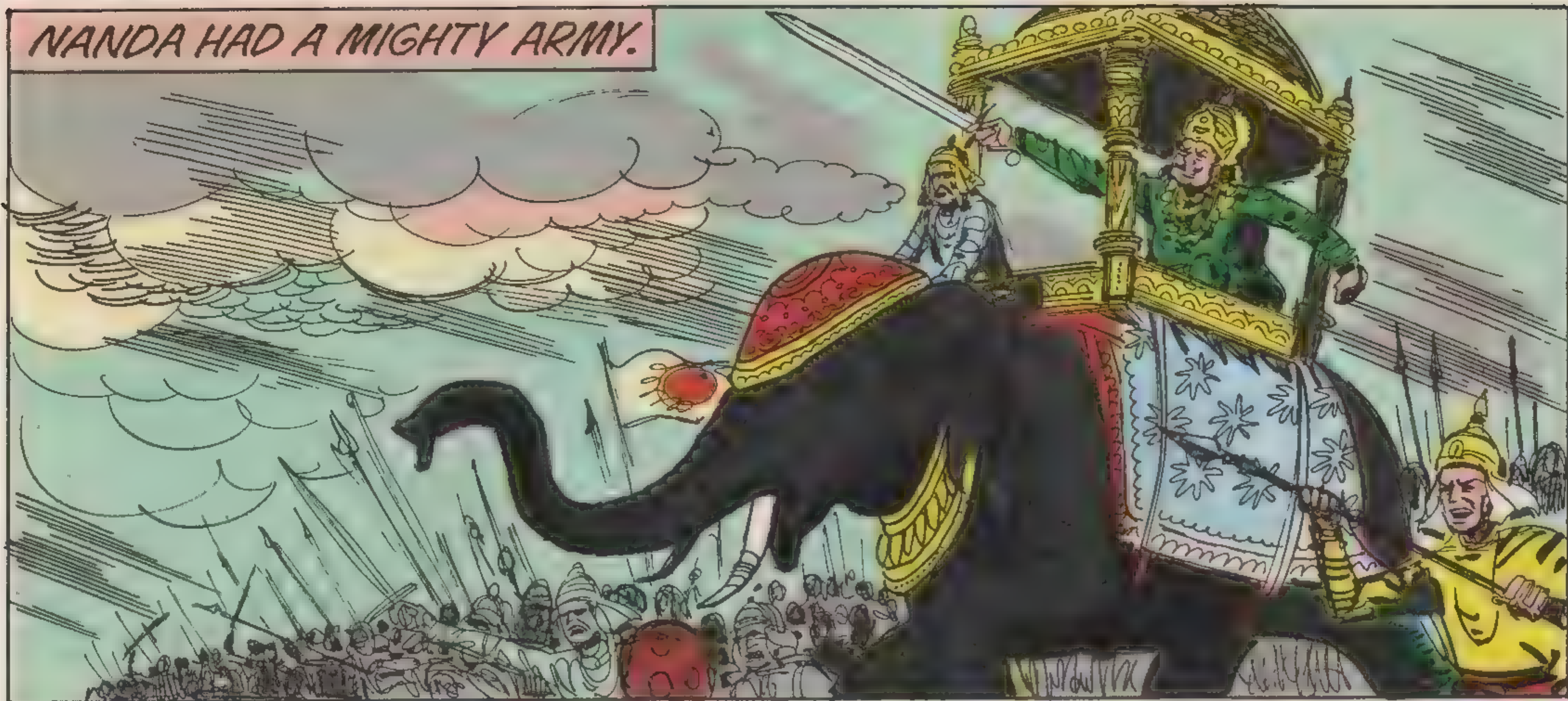
I THINK THE  
TIME HAS COME  
FOR US TO  
STRIKE.



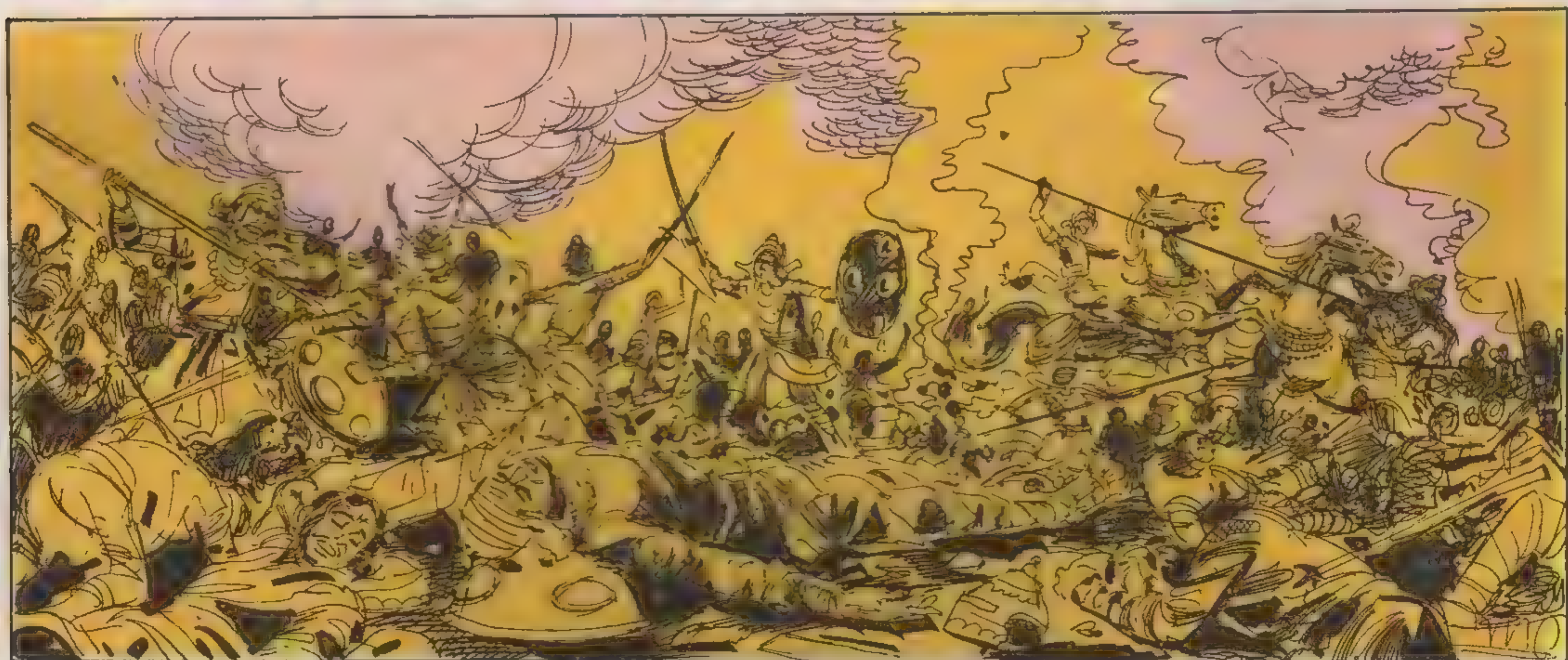
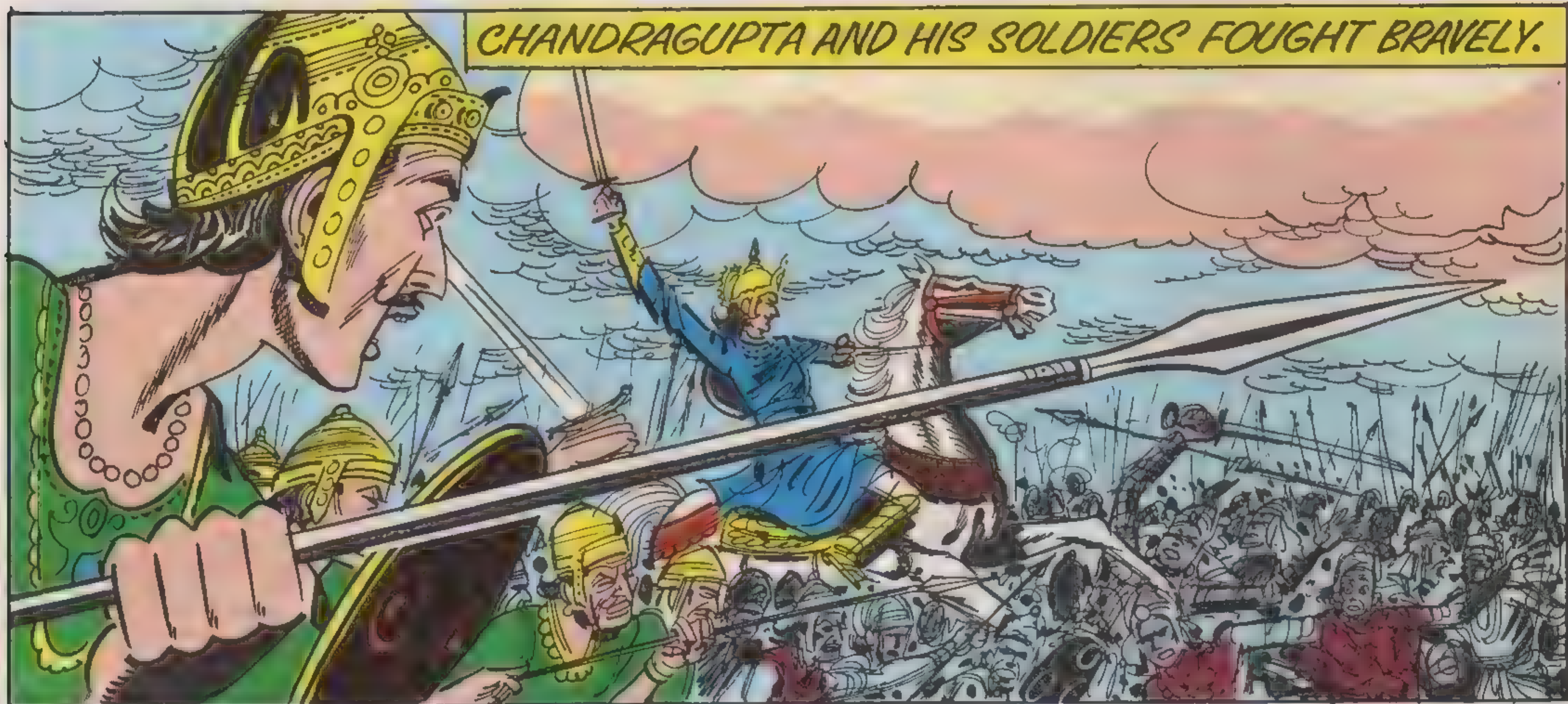




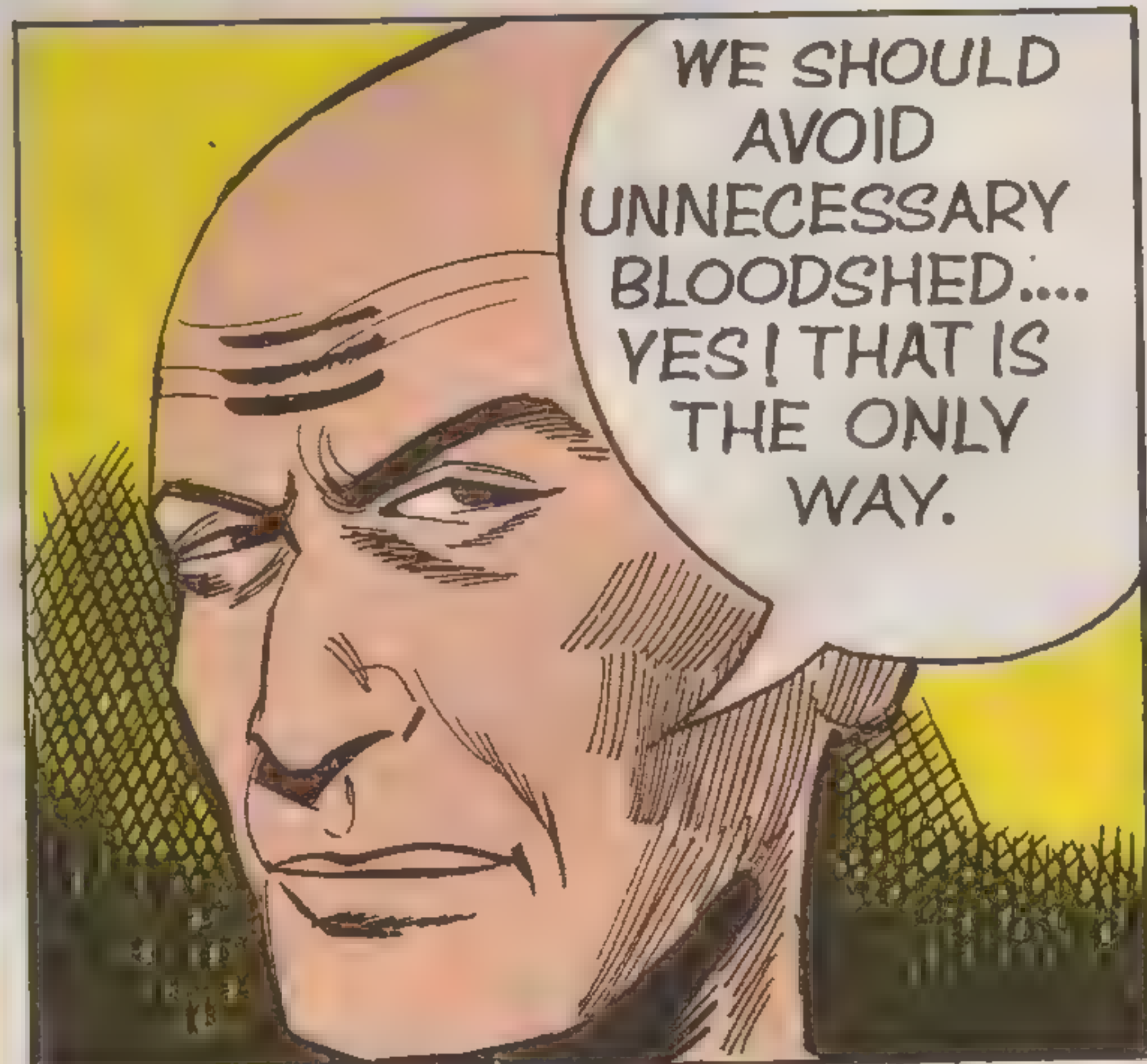
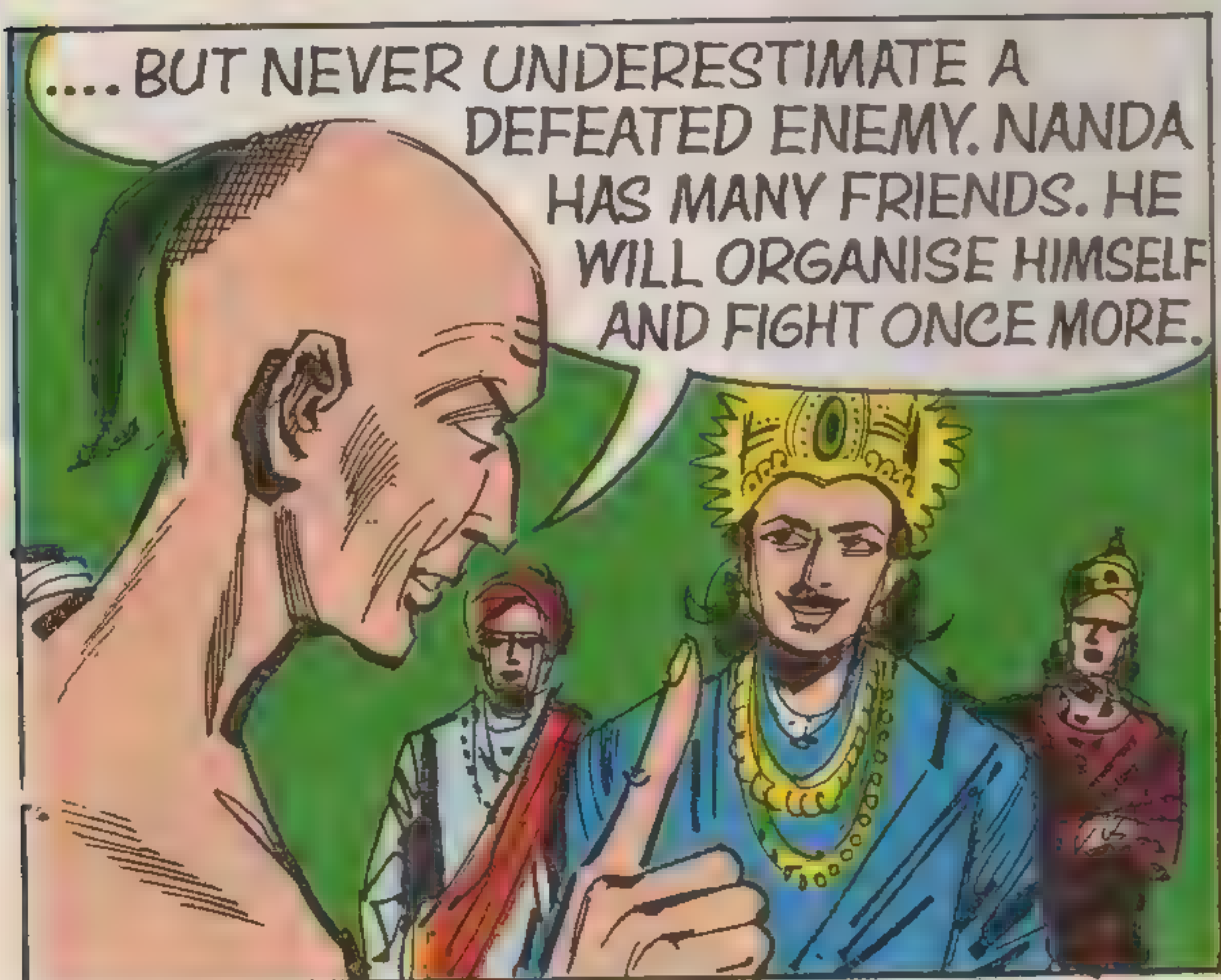
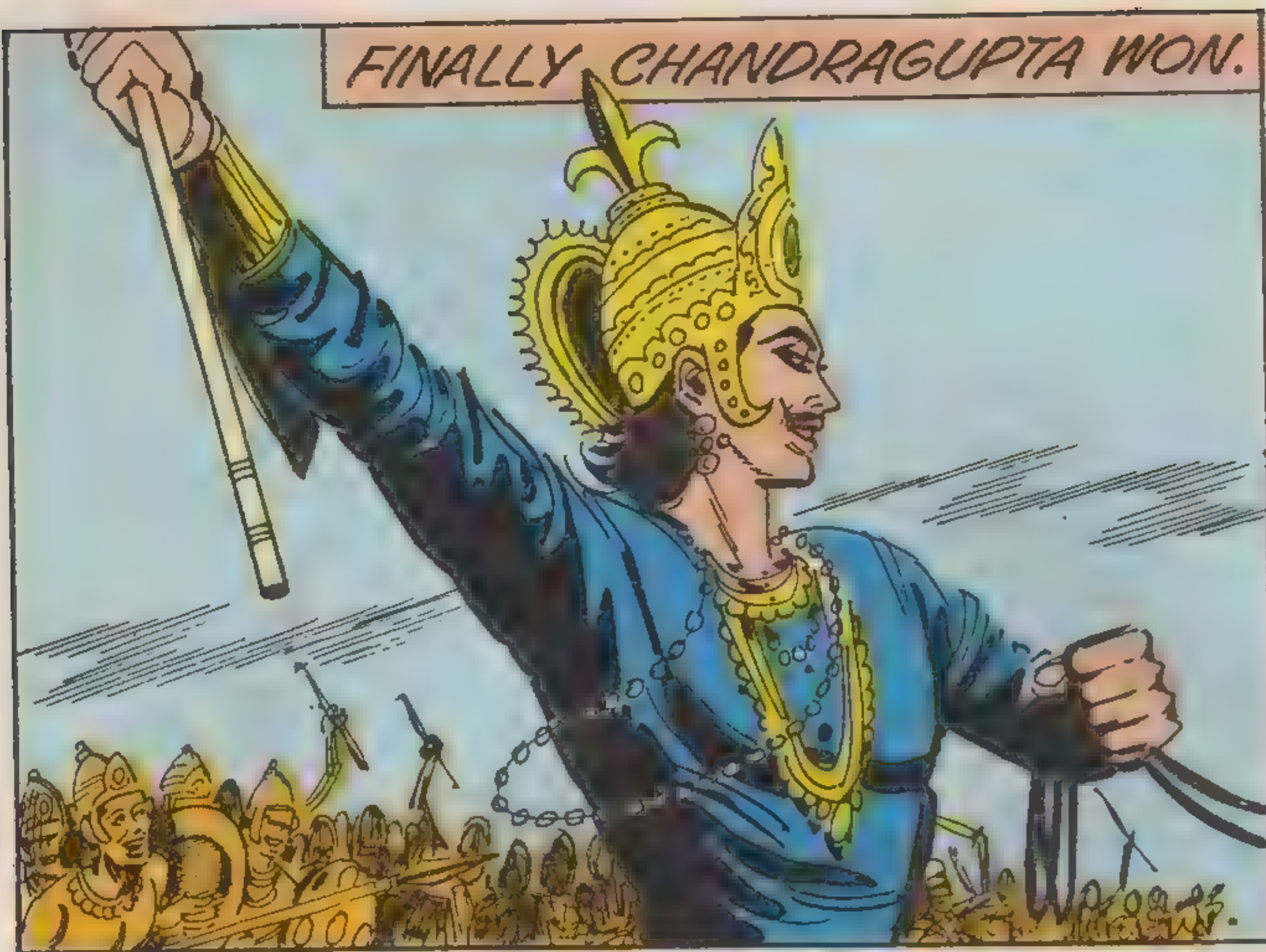
NANDA HAD A MIGHTY ARMY.



CHANDRAGUPTA AND HIS SOLDIERS FOUGHT BRAVELY.

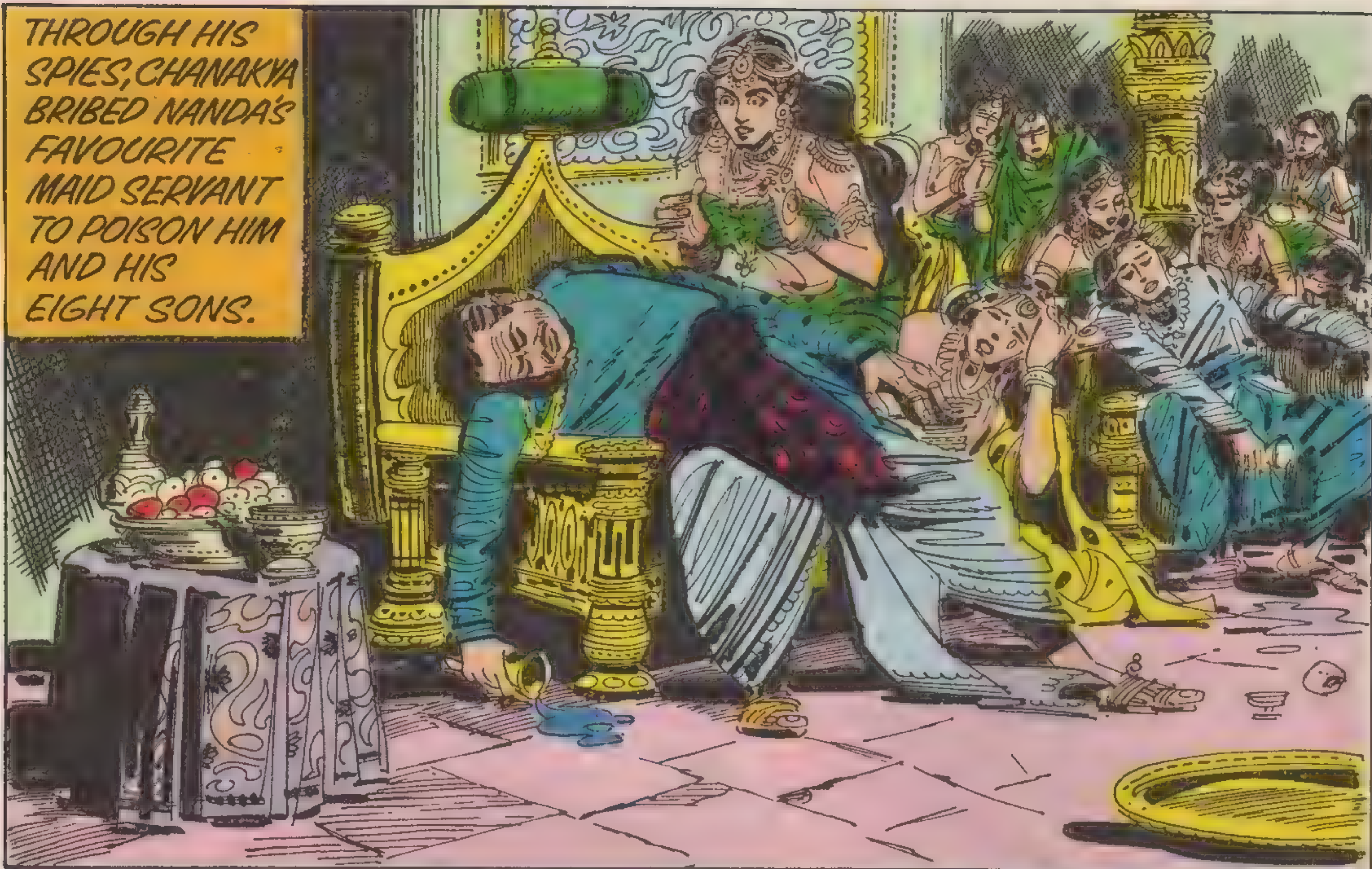




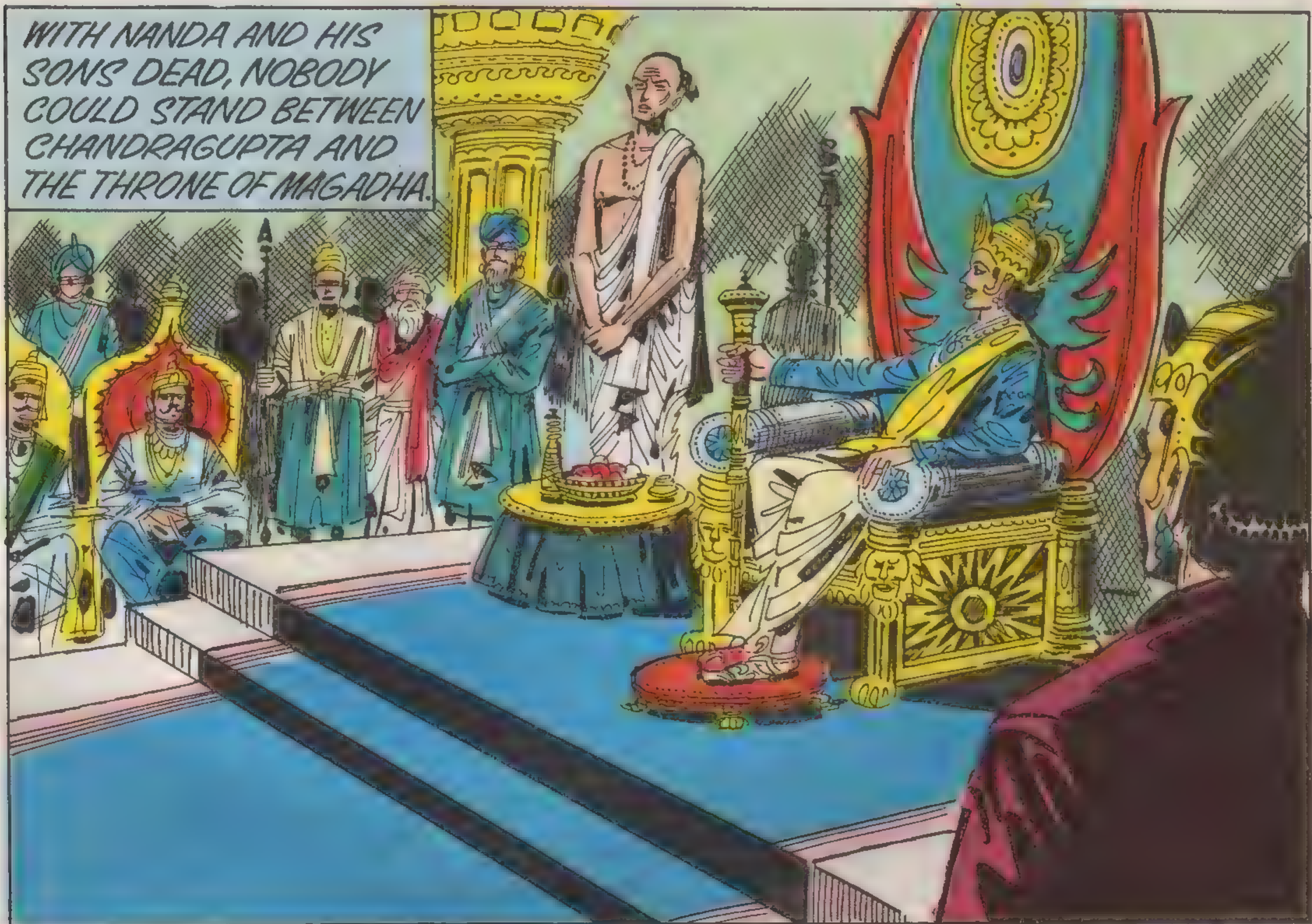




THROUGH HIS  
SPIES, CHANAKYA  
BRIBED NANDA'S  
FAVOURITE  
MAID SERVANT  
TO POISON HIM  
AND HIS  
EIGHT SONS.



WITH NANDA AND HIS  
SONS DEAD, NOBODY  
COULD STAND BETWEEN  
CHANDRAGUPTA AND  
THE THRONE OF MAGADHA.

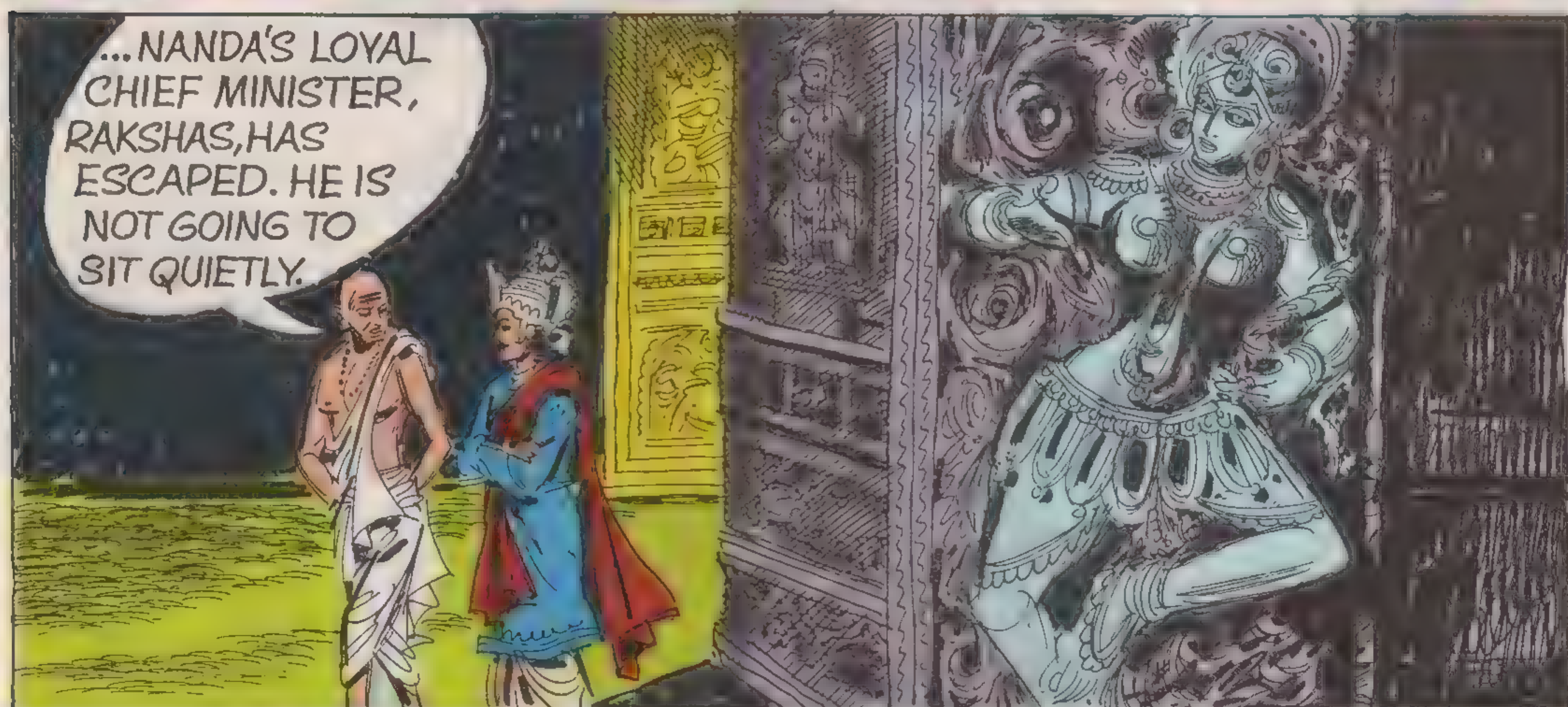




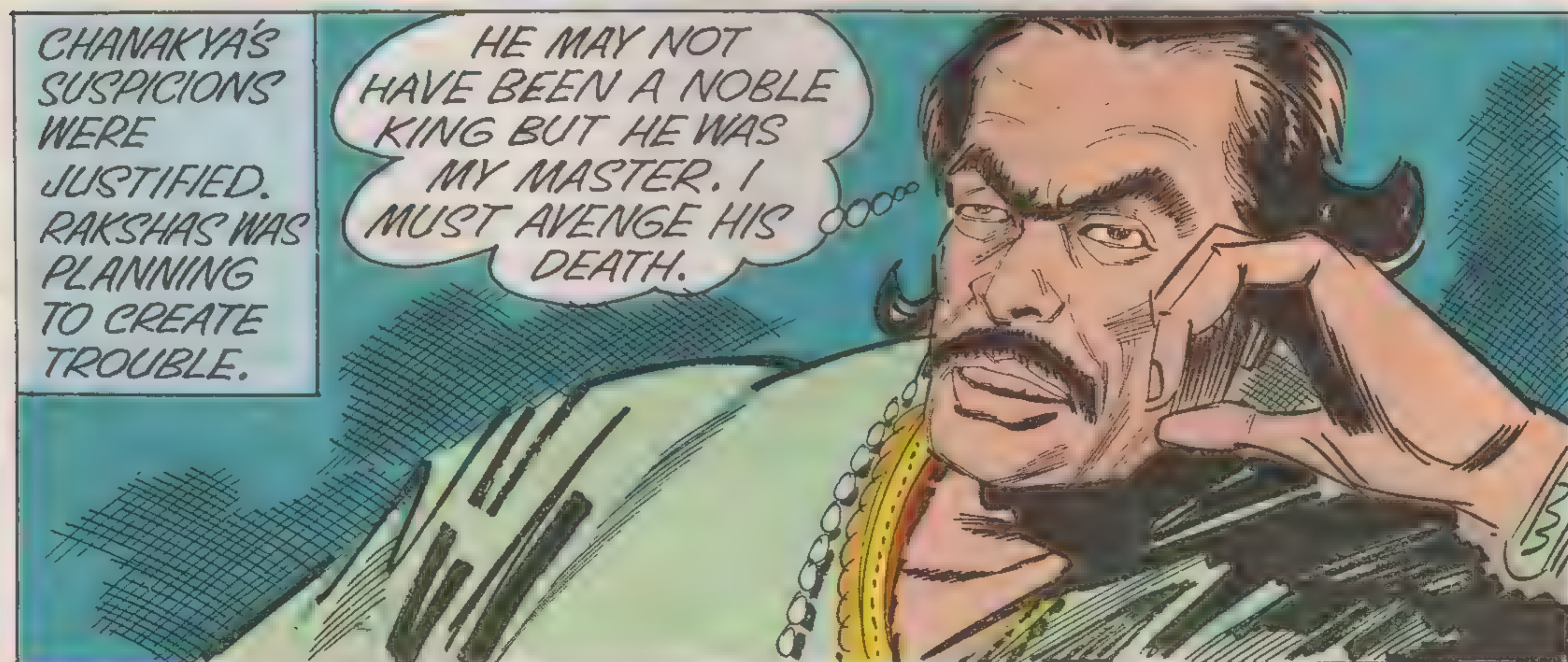


THE  
THRONE IS  
OURS AND  
NANDA IS  
DEAD, SO OUR  
TROUBLES  
ARE OVER.

BUT THE  
TASK IS NOT  
YET  
OVER....



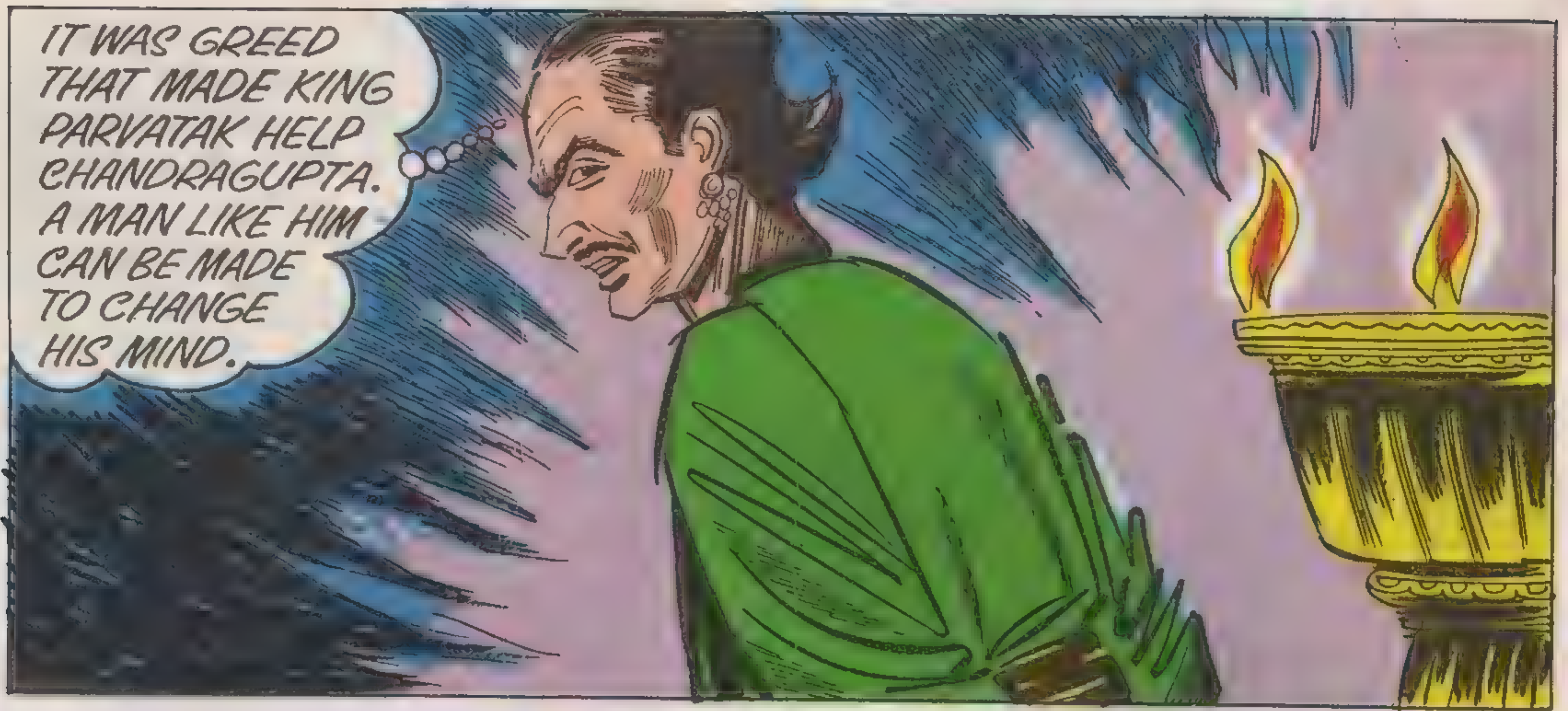
...NANDA'S LOYAL  
CHIEF MINISTER,  
RAKSHAS, HAS  
ESCAPED. HE IS  
NOT GOING TO  
SIT QUIETLY.



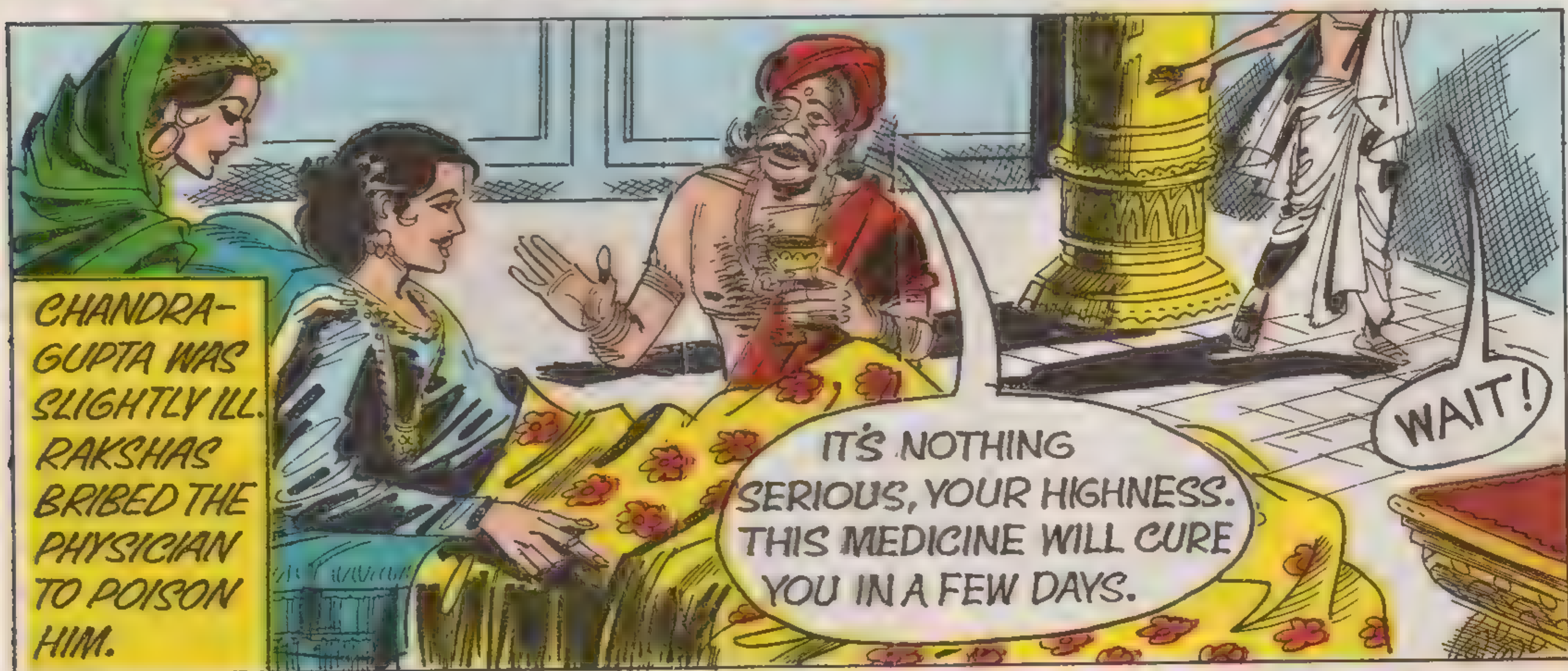
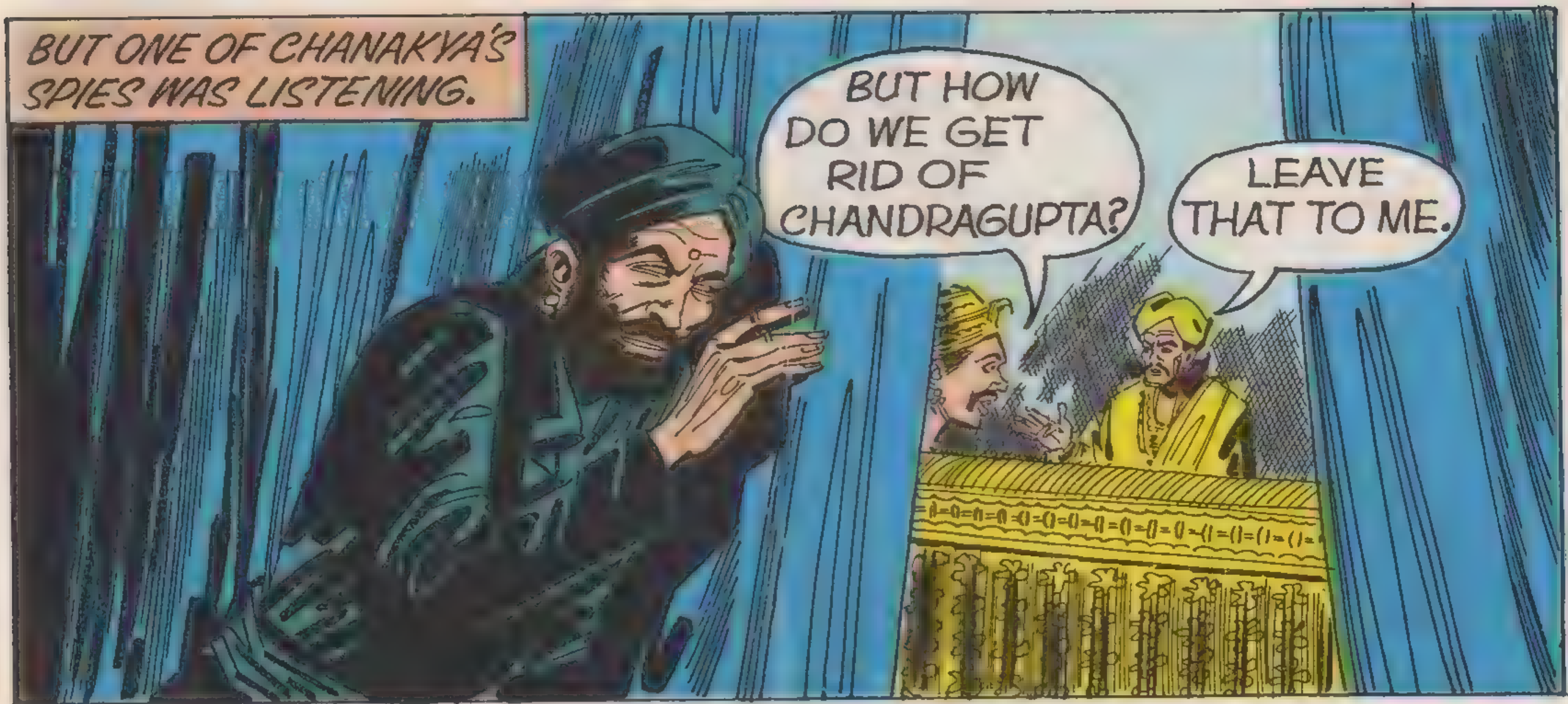
CHANAKYA'S  
SUSPICIONS  
WERE  
JUSTIFIED.  
RAKSHAS WAS  
PLANNING  
TO CREATE  
TROUBLE.

HE MAY NOT  
HAVE BEEN A NOBLE  
KING BUT HE WAS  
MY MASTER. I  
MUST AVENGE HIS  
DEATH.

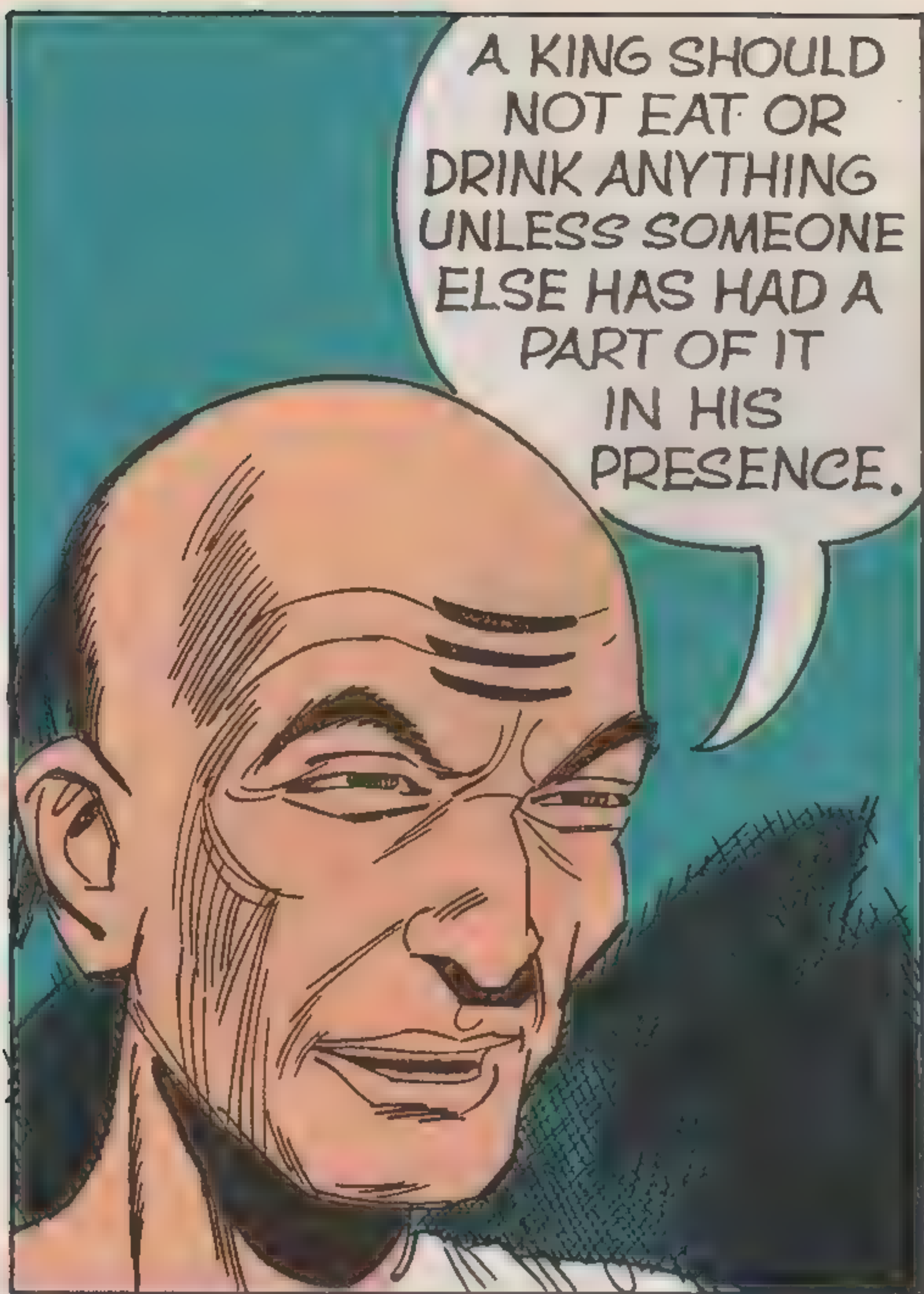














RAKSHAS WAS UPSET OVER THE DEATH OF THE PHYSICIAN.

CHANAKYA IS VERY CLEVER. I HAVE LOST A GOOD FRIEND.

JUST THEN A SPY OF RAKSHAS BROUGHT EXCITING NEWS.

AFTER ABOUT A WEEK, CHANDRA-GUPTA IS GOING TO MOVE INTO NANDA'S PALACE.

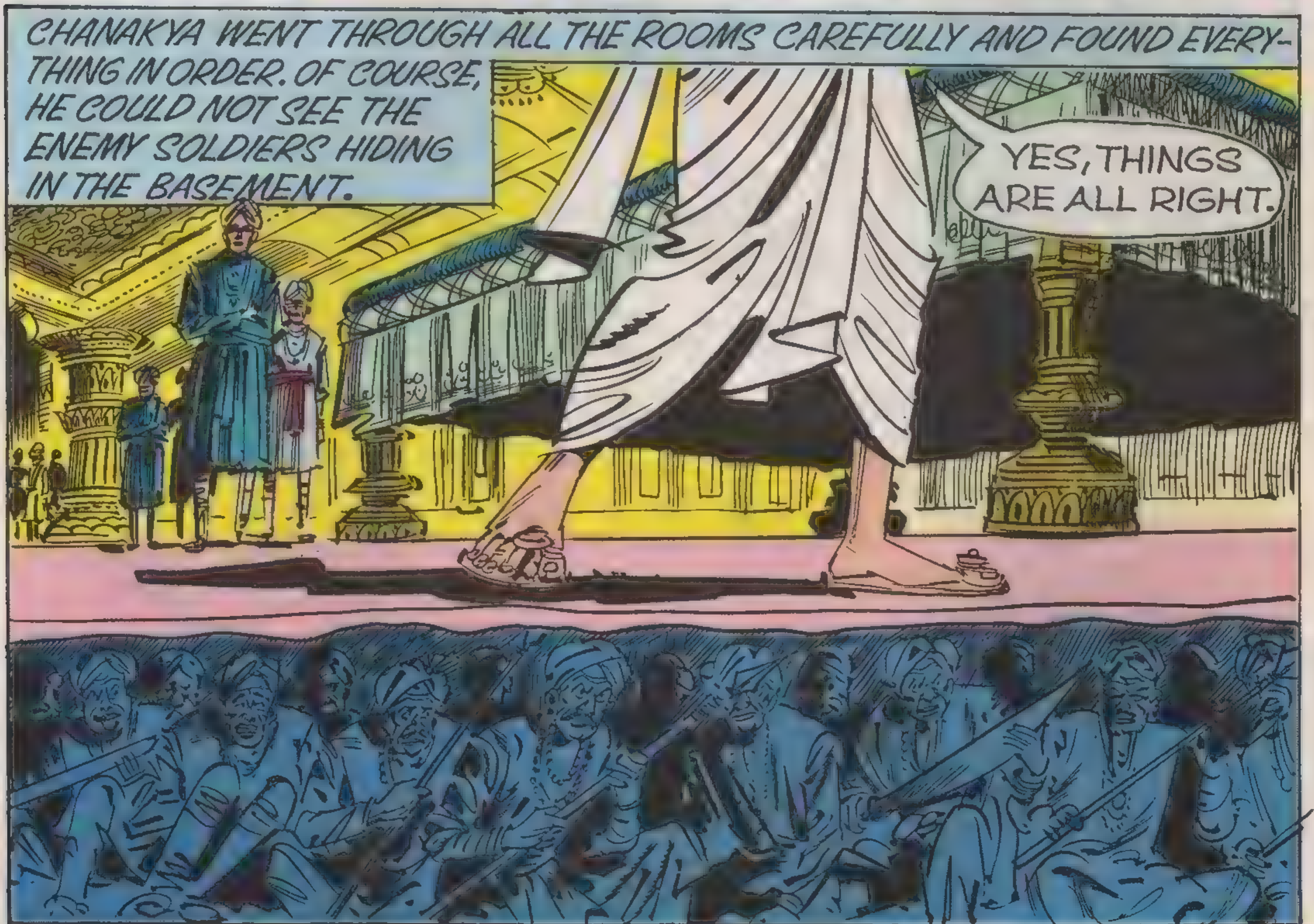
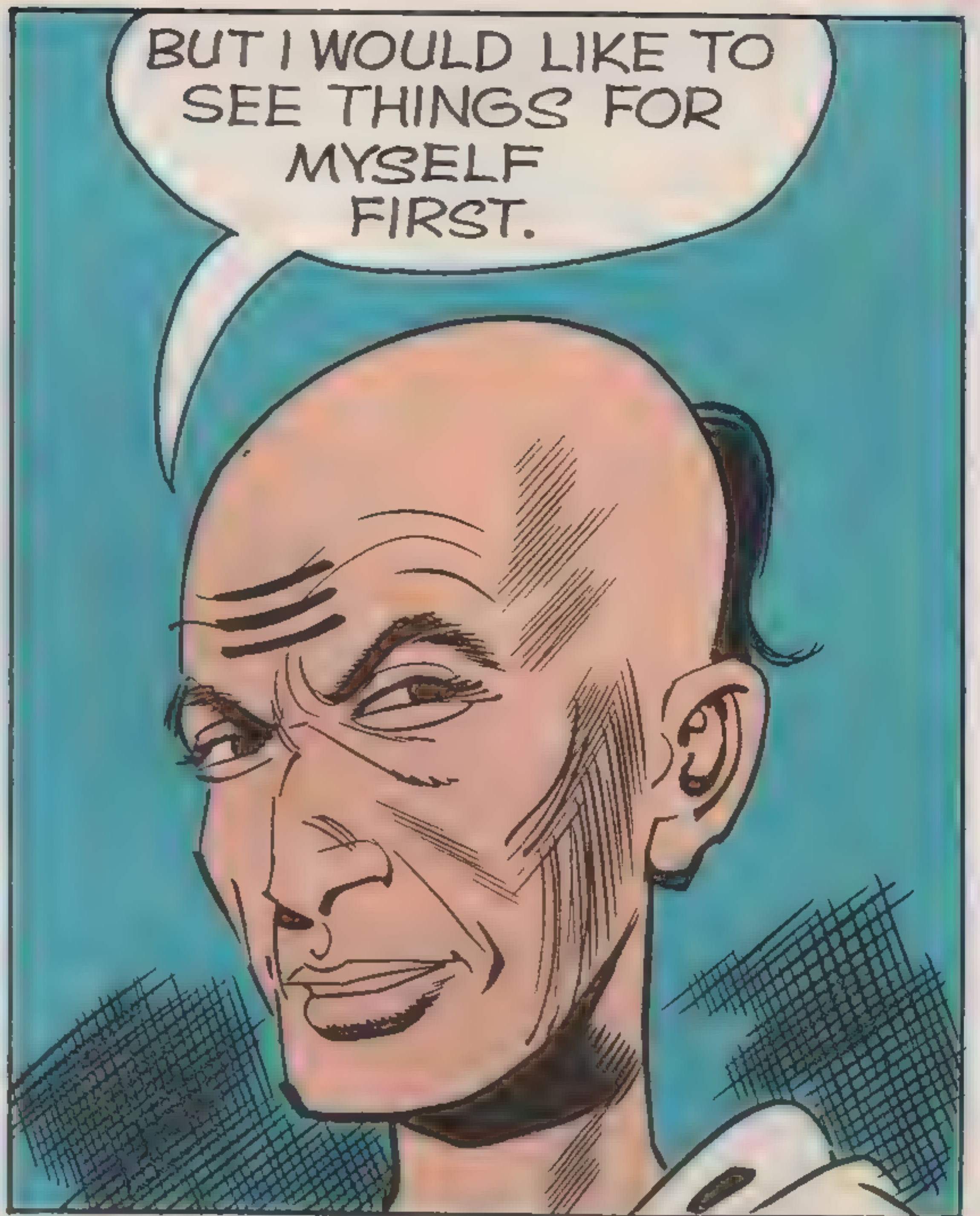
YOU HAVE BROUGHT GOOD NEWS.

NOW NOBODY CAN SAVE YOU, CHANDRA-GUPTA!

THE PALACE HAS BEEN REFURNISHED, MAHARAJ! IT IS NOW READY FOR YOU.

WAIT, THE PALACE MUST BE CHECKED PROPERLY BEFORE THE KING ENTERS.



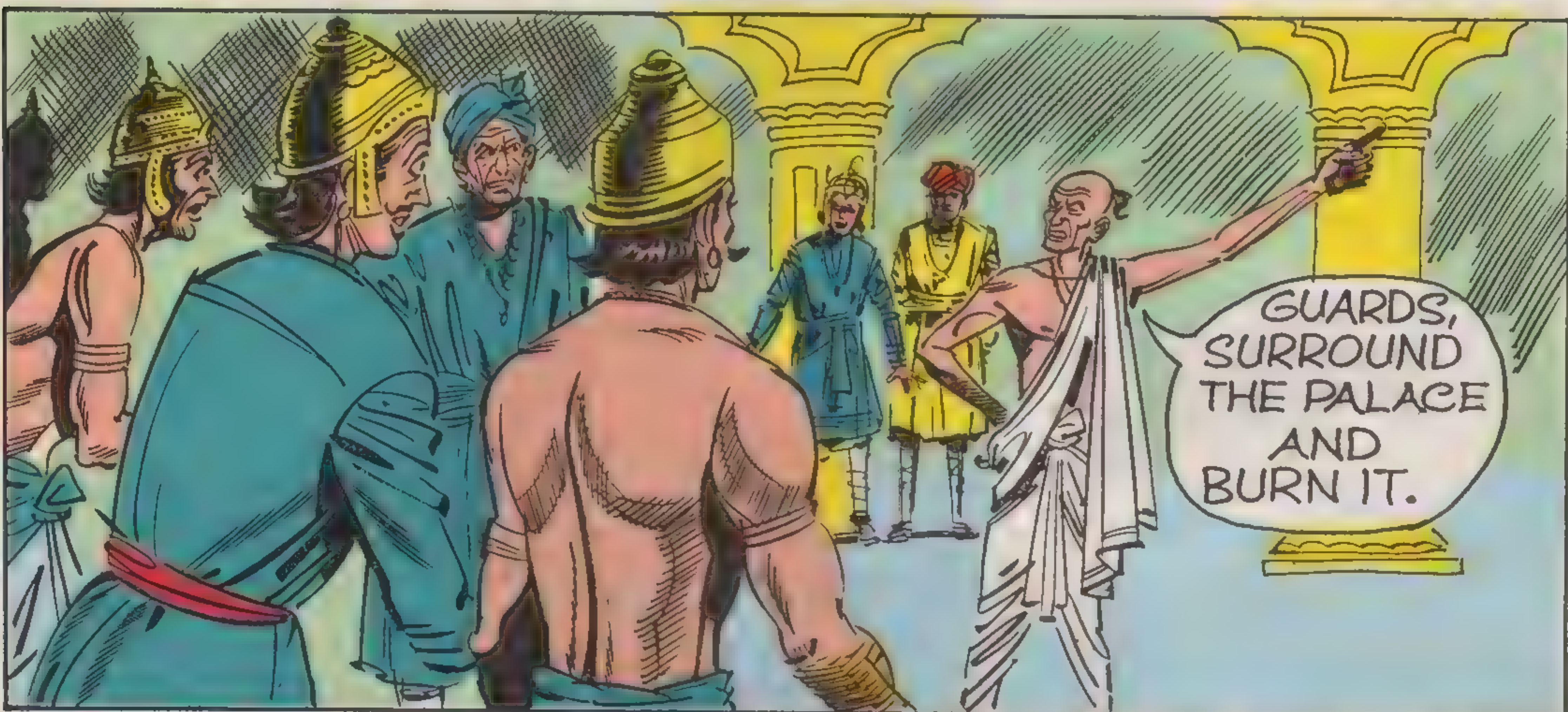
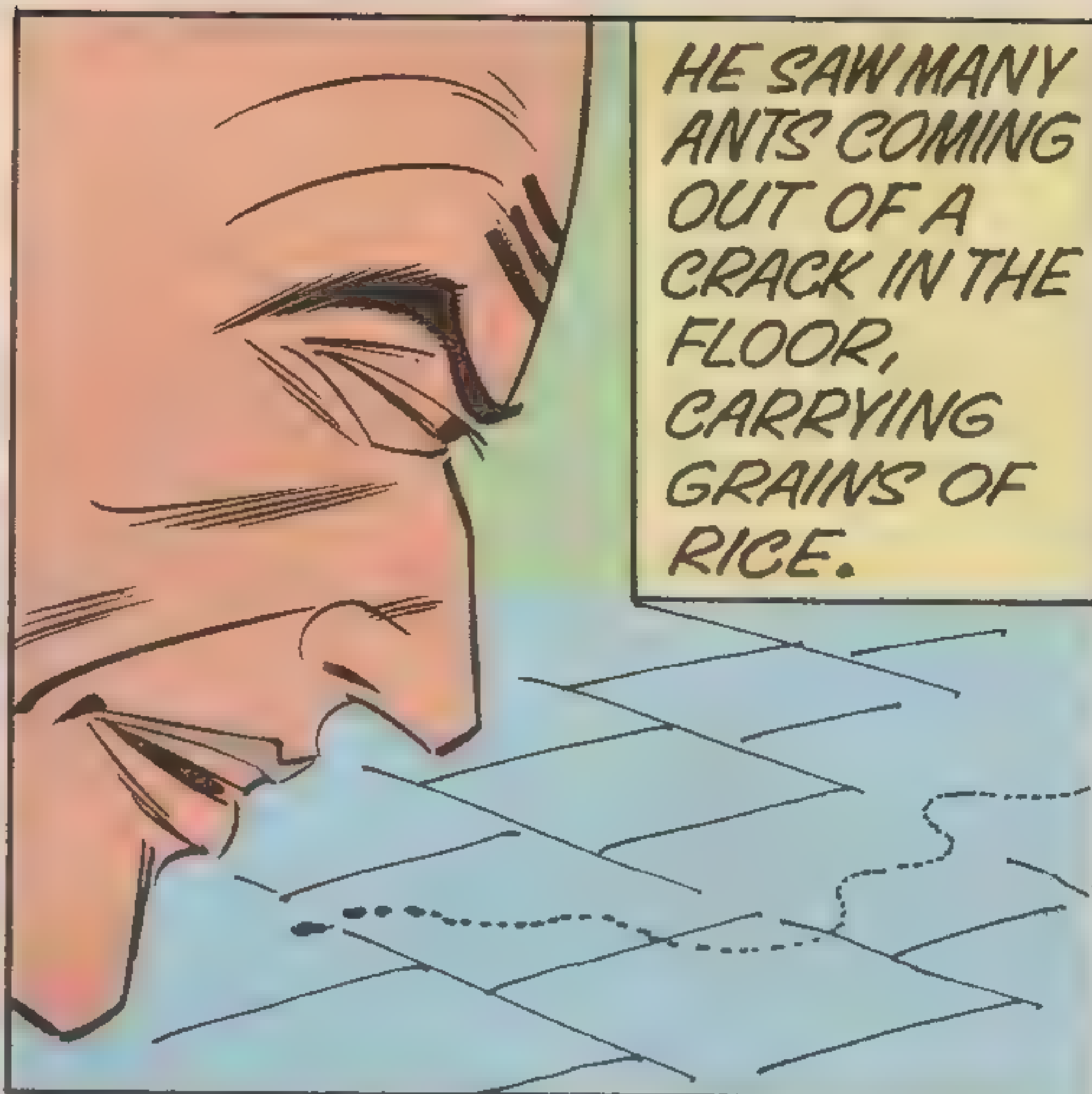




BUT CHANAKYA WAS ALWAYS ALERT.



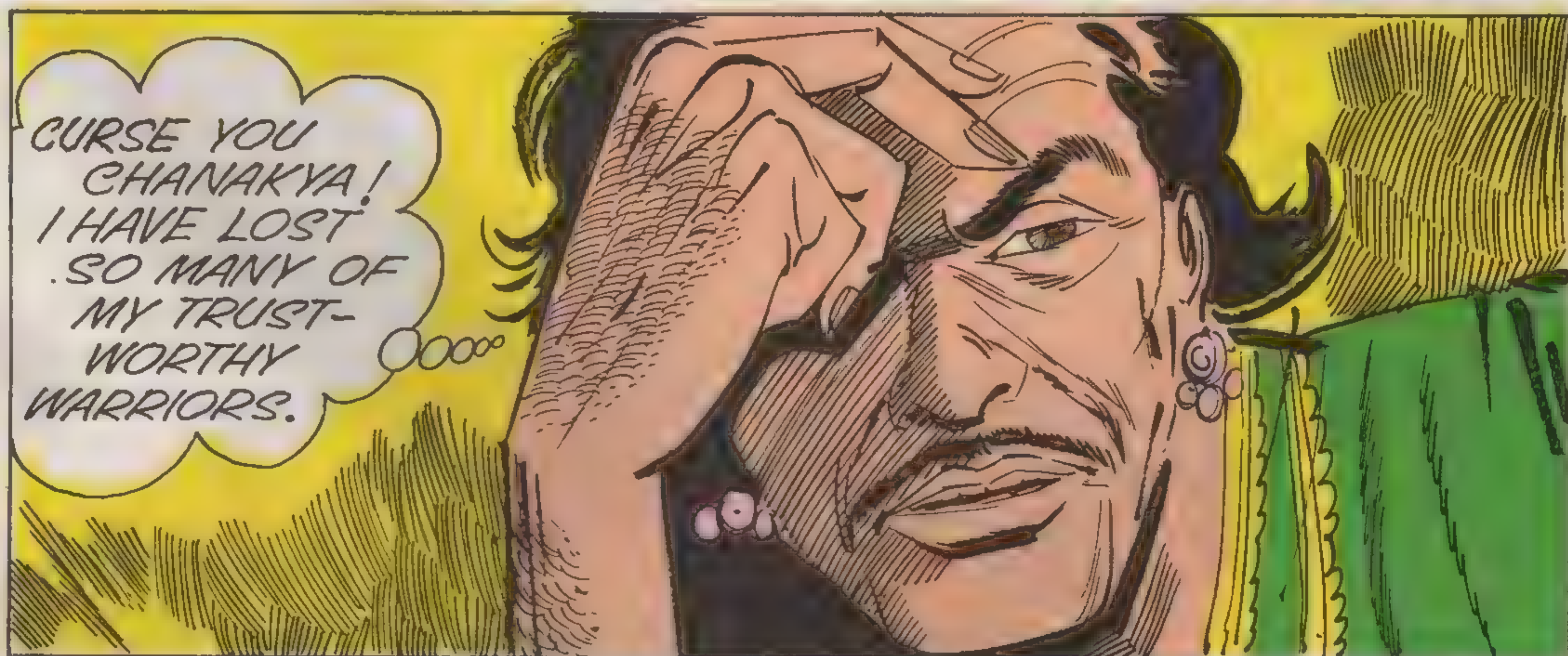
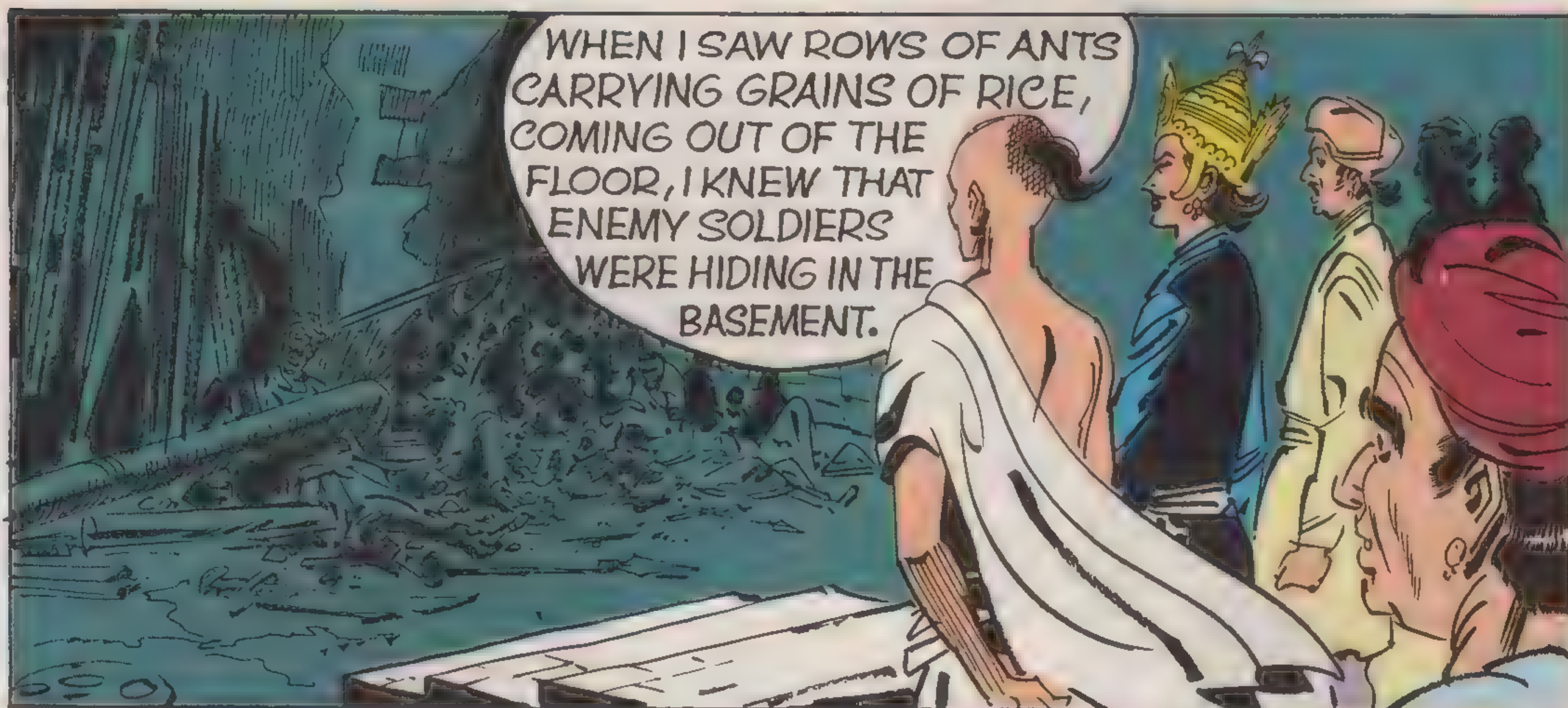
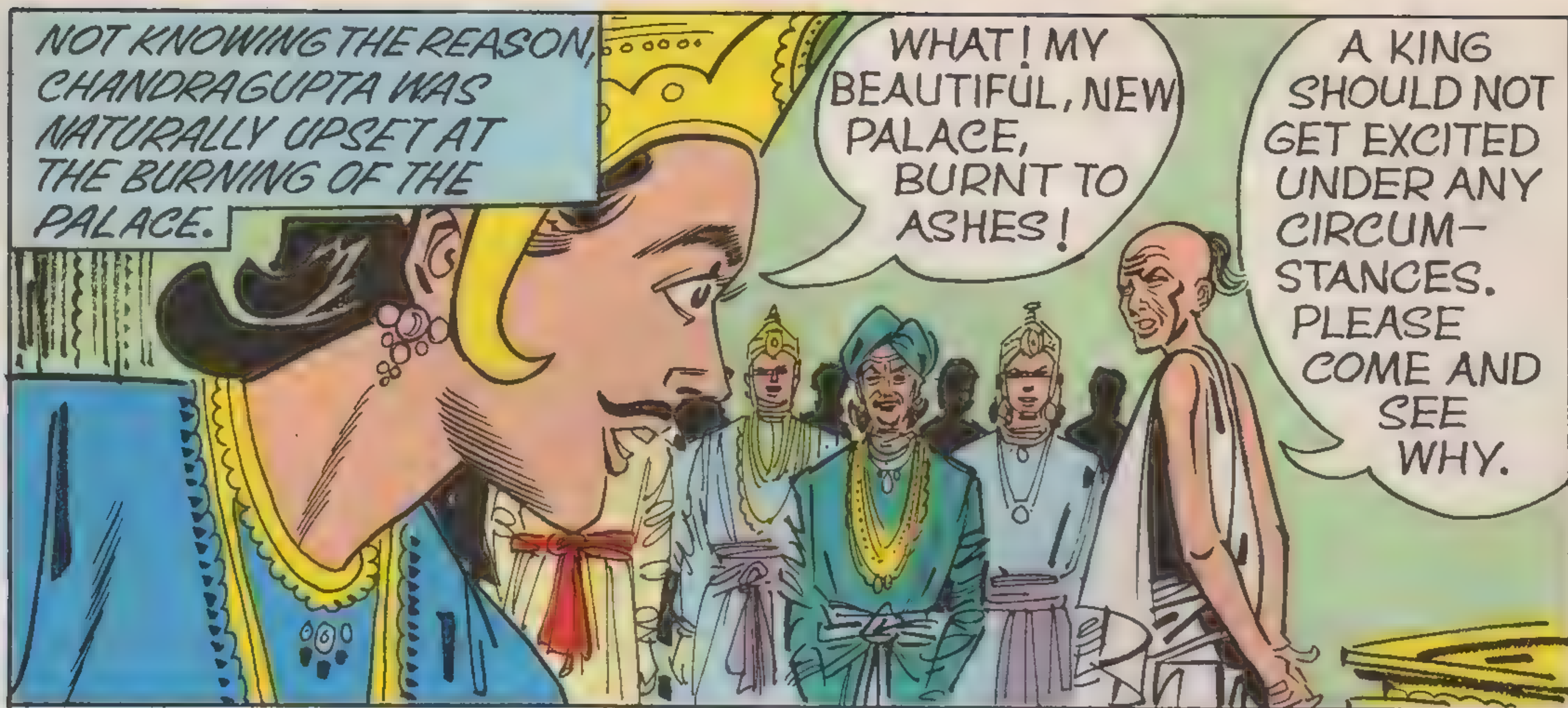
HE SAW MANY ANTS COMING OUT OF A CRACK IN THE FLOOR, CARRYING GRAINS OF RICE.



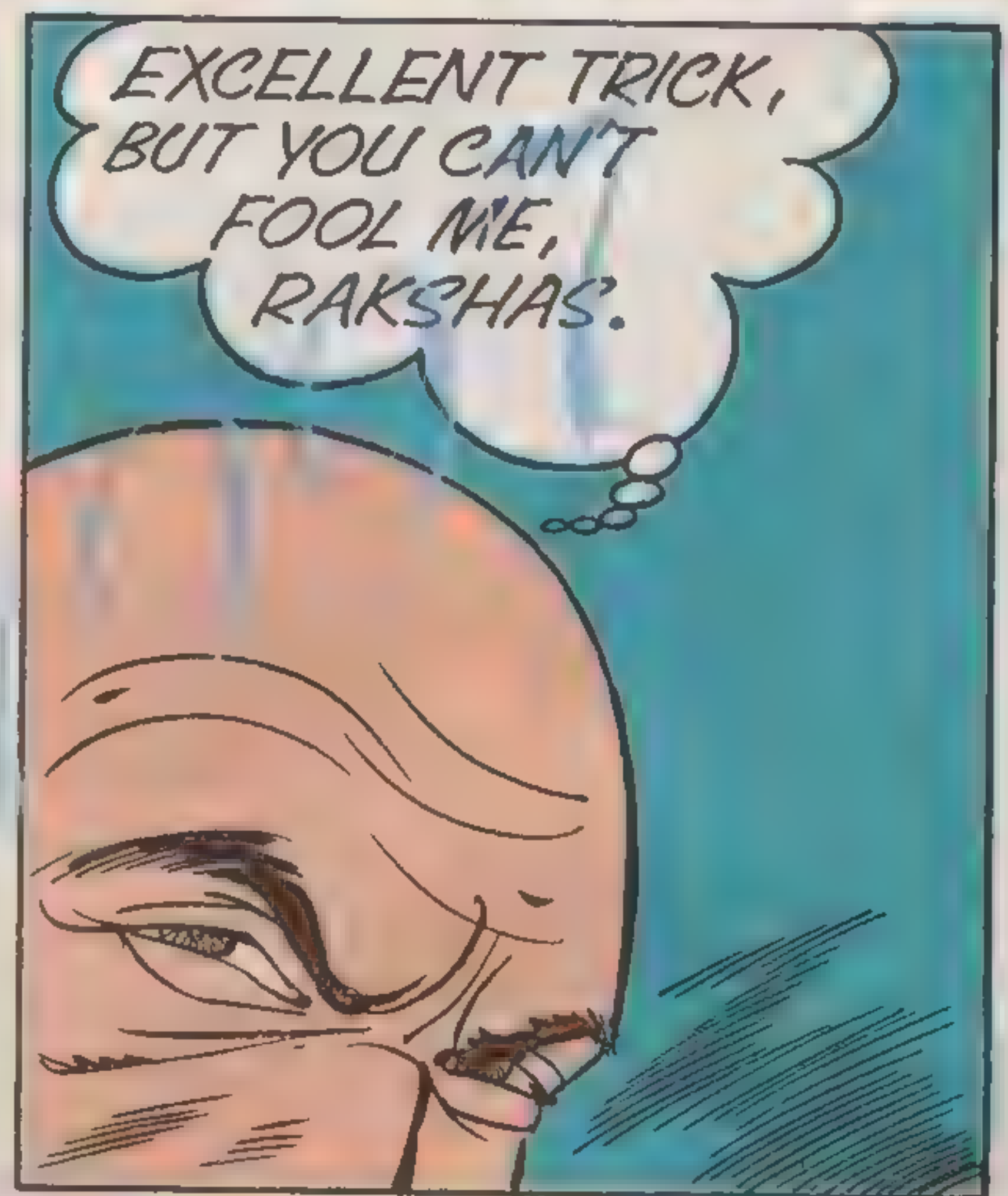
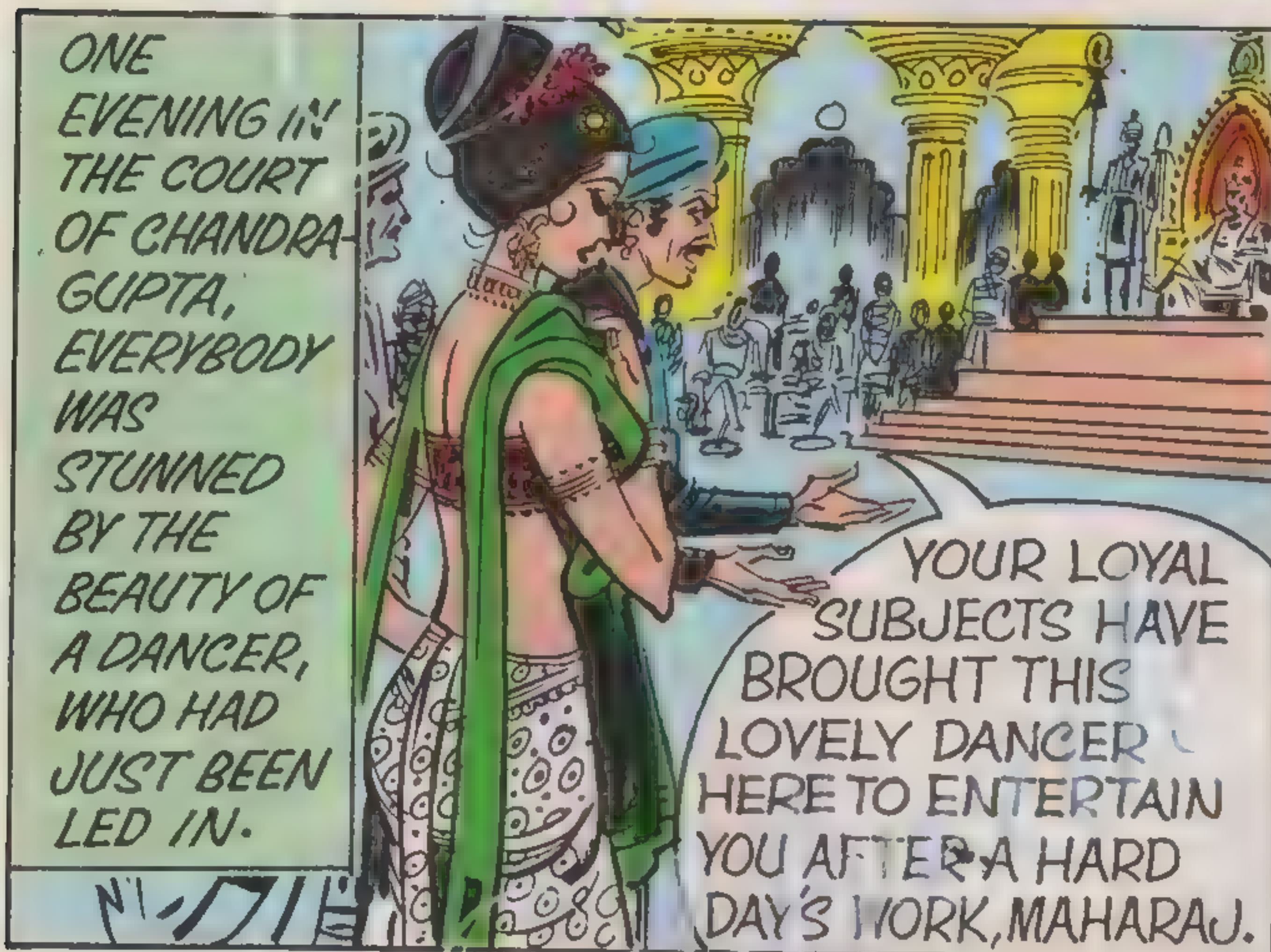
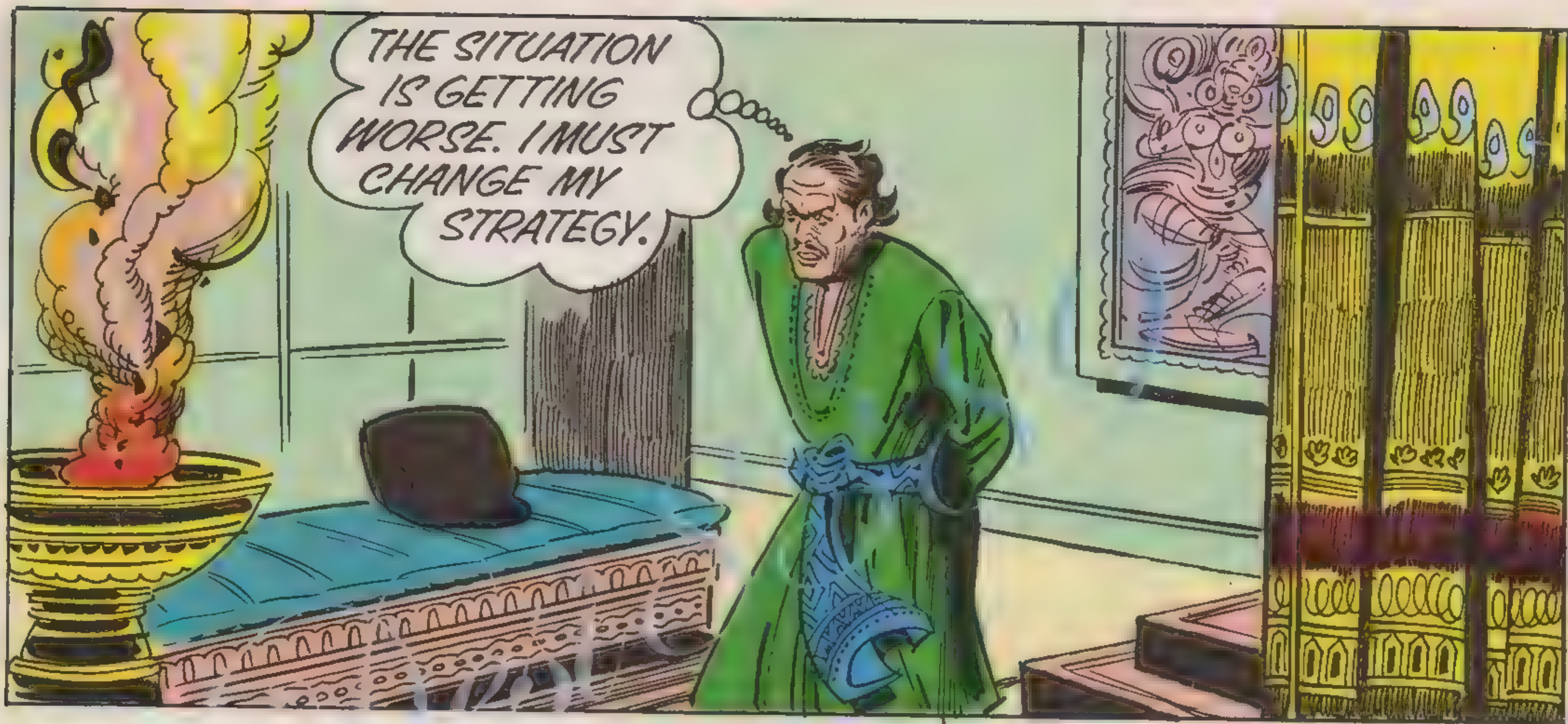
IN THE RAGING FIRE, ALL THE ENEMY SOLDIERS WERE KILLED.













LATER CHANAKYA EXPLAINED TO CHANDRAGUPTA.

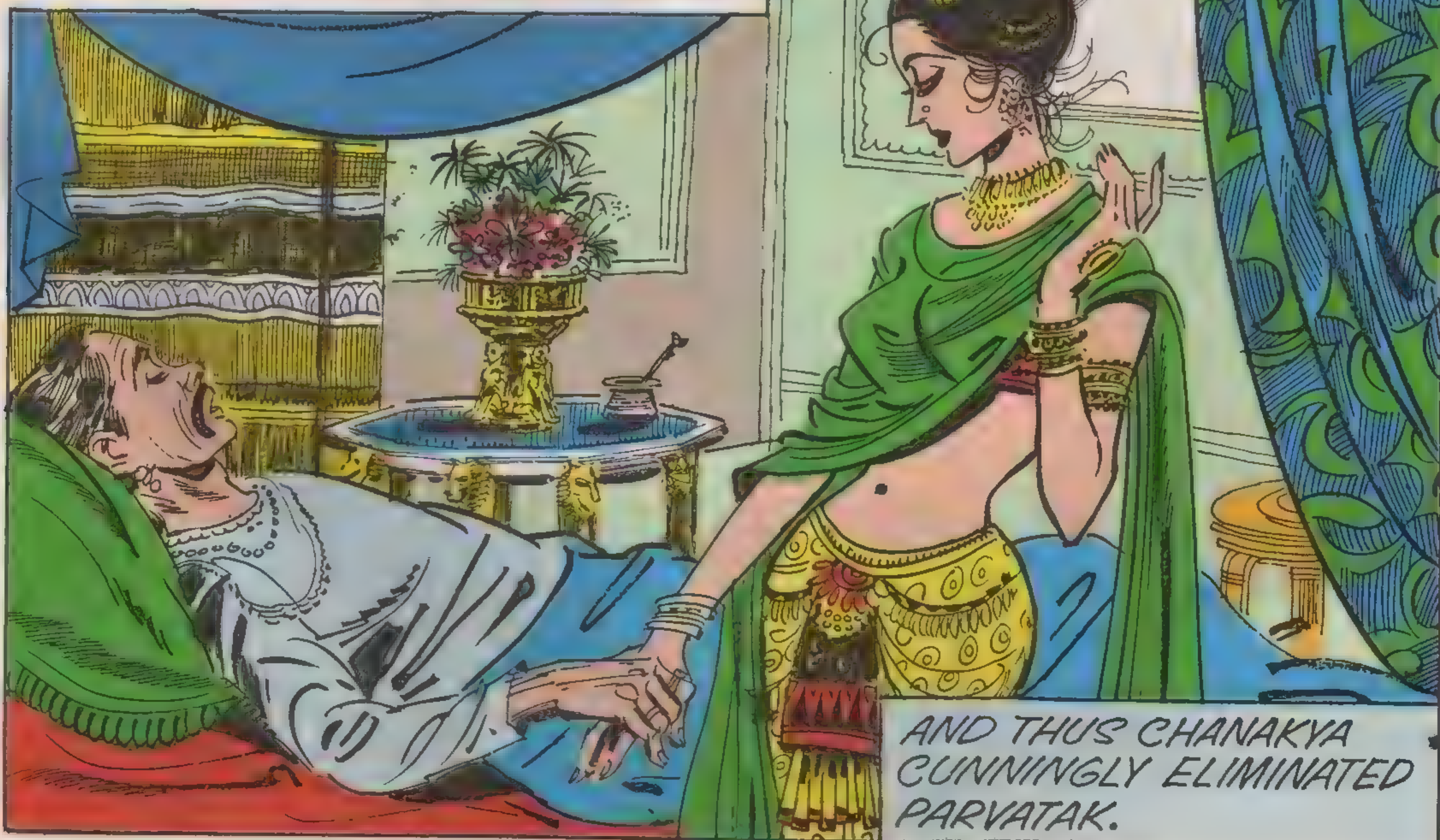
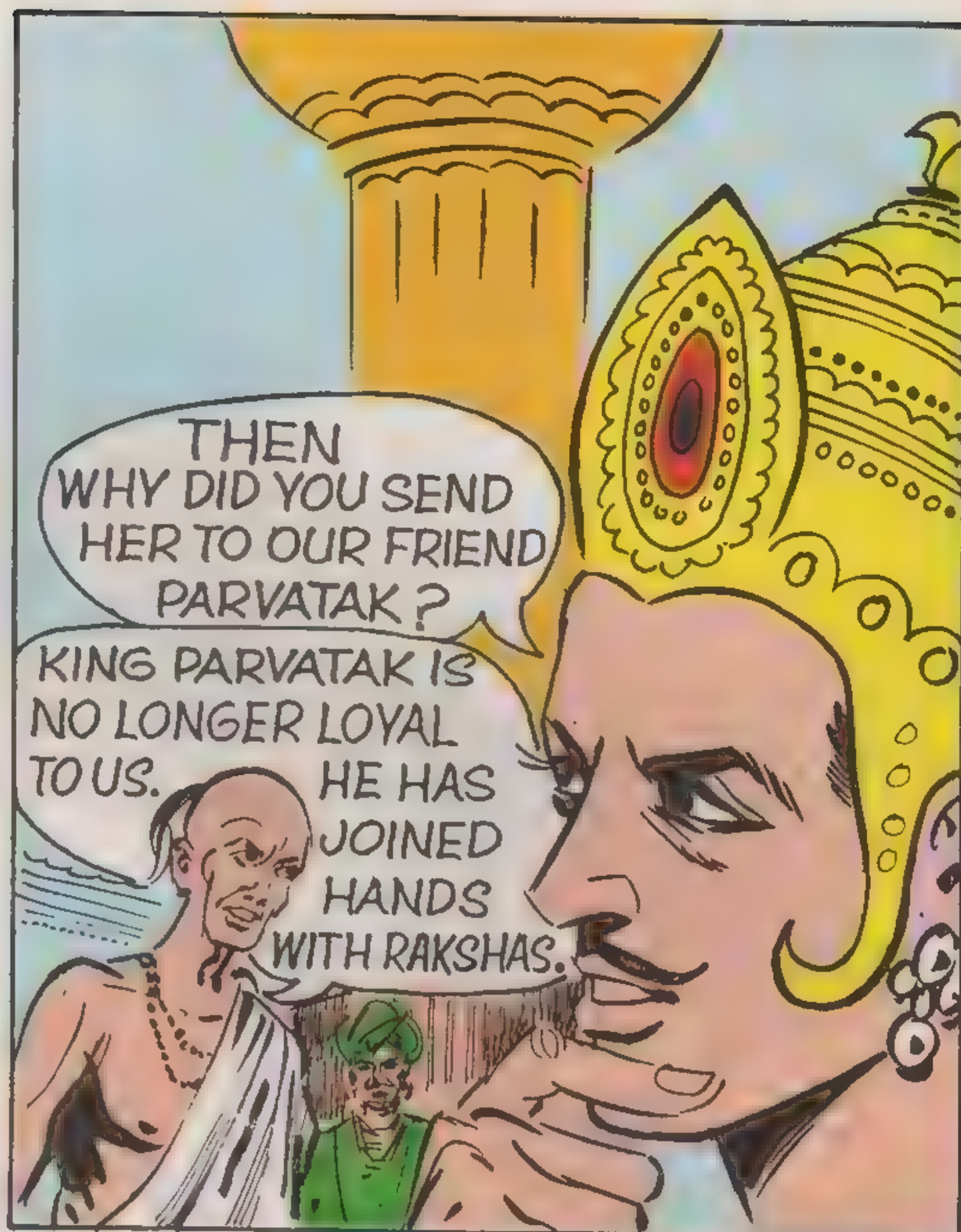
THAT DANCER WAS A VISHA-KANYA\*. SHE MUST HAVE BEEN SENT BY RAKSHAS TO KILL YOU.



\*VISHA-KANYA OR POISON-GIRL —IN ANCIENT INDIA, BEAUTIFUL GIRLS WERE BROUGHT UP ON A SPECIAL DIET OF MEDICINE AND POISON. IF A PERSON TOUCHED A VISHA-KANYA, HE WOULD DIE IMMEDIATELY.

THEN WHY DID YOU SEND HER TO OUR FRIEND PARVATAK?

KING PARVATAK IS NO LONGER LOYAL TO US. HE HAS JOINED HANDS WITH RAKSHAS.



AND THUS CHANAKYA CUNNINGLY ELIMINATED PARVATAK.



RAKSHAS WAS VERY UPSET OVER THE DEATH OF PARVATAK.



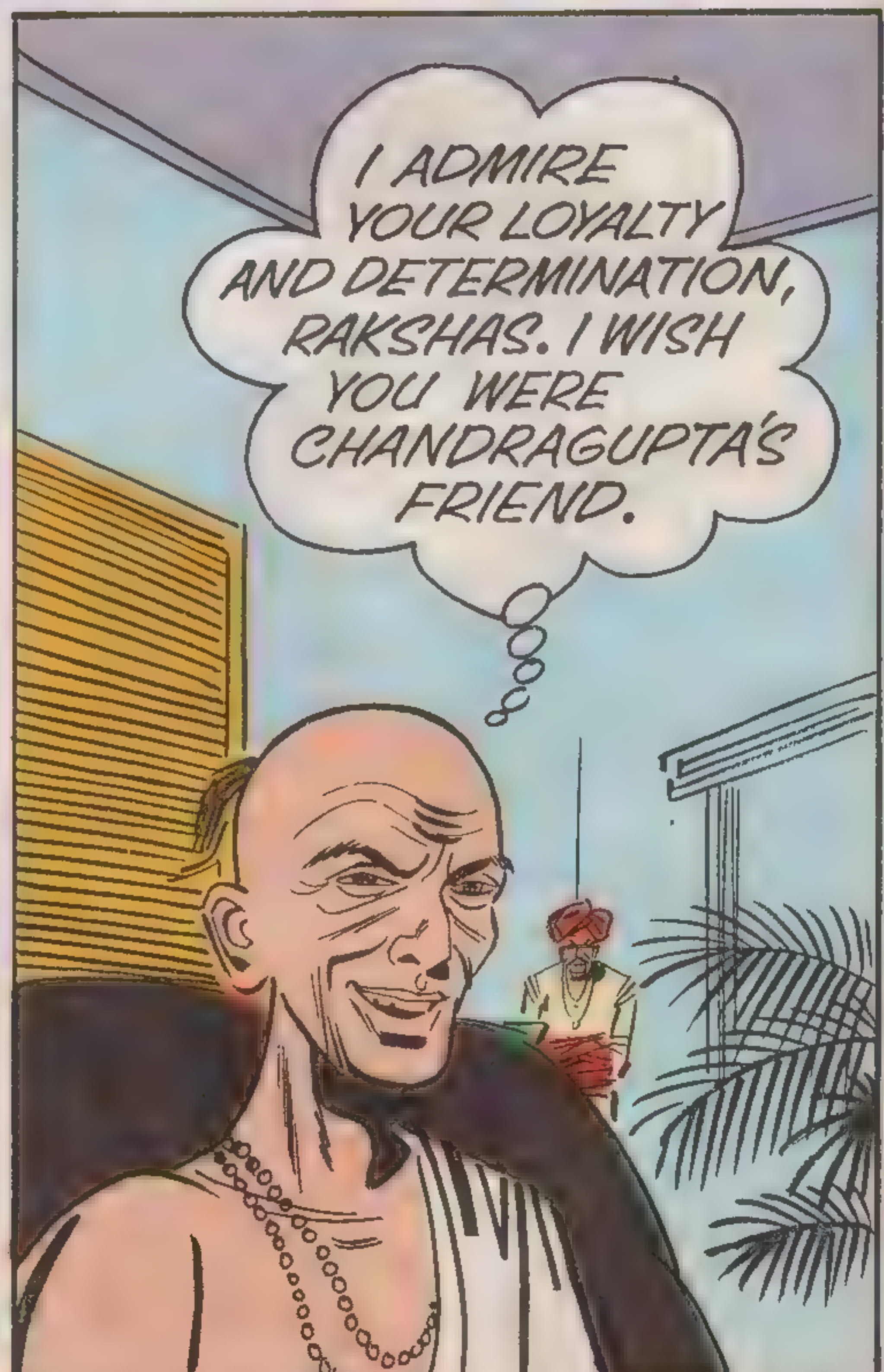
BUT RAKSHAS WAS NOT A MAN TO GIVE UP EASILY.



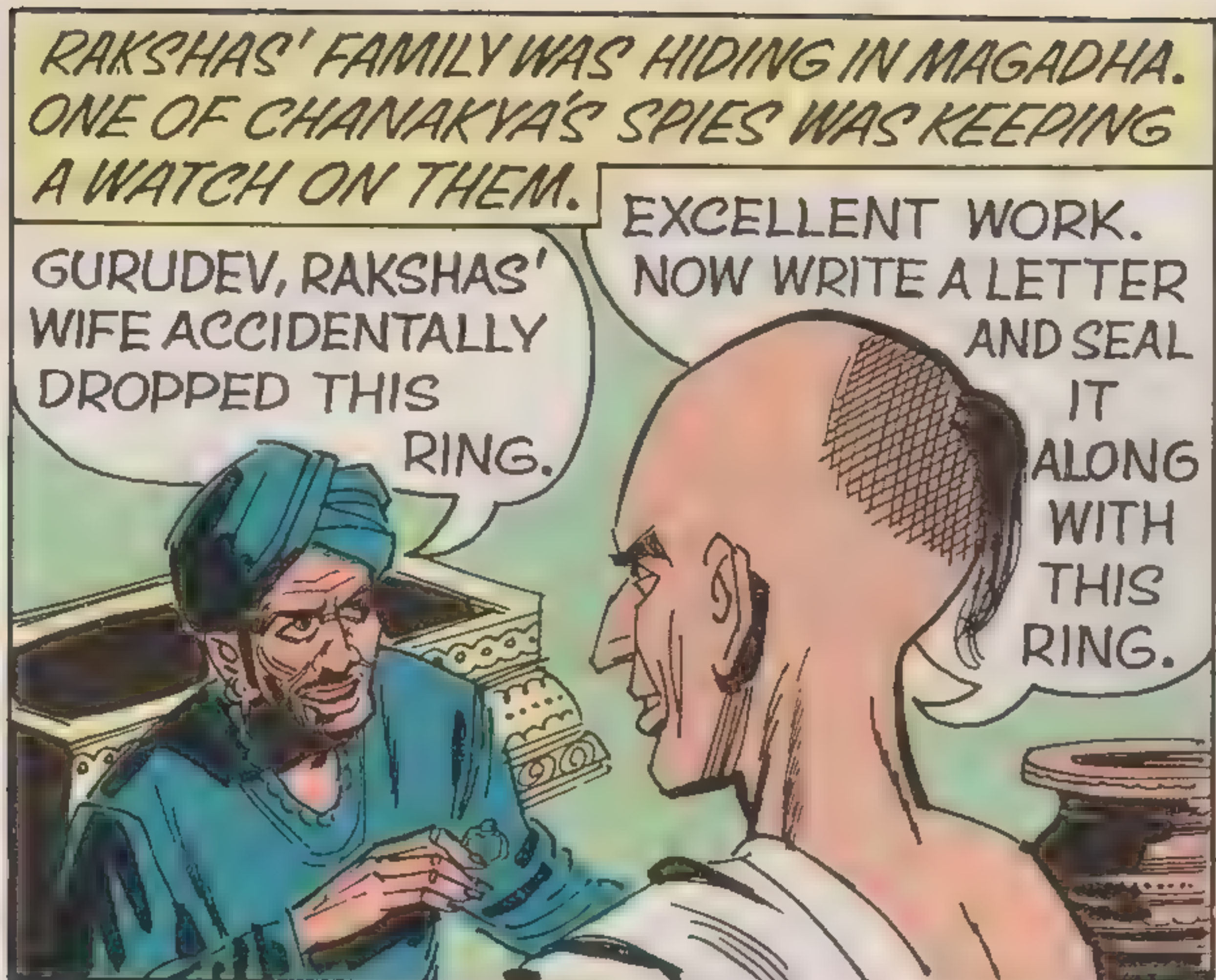
RAKSHAS HAS PERSUADED PARVATAK'S SON, MALAYAKETU, AND FIVE OTHER KINGS TO ATTACK MAGADHA.



I ADMIRE YOUR LOYALTY AND DETERMINATION, RAKSHAS. I WISH YOU WERE CHANDRAGUPTA'S FRIEND.







RAKSHAS' FAMILY WAS HIDING IN MAGADHA. ONE OF CHANAKYA'S SPIES WAS KEEPING A WATCH ON THEM.

GURUDEV, RAKSHAS' WIFE ACCIDENTALLY DROPPED THIS RING.

EXCELLENT WORK. NOW WRITE A LETTER AND SEAL IT ALONG WITH THIS RING.

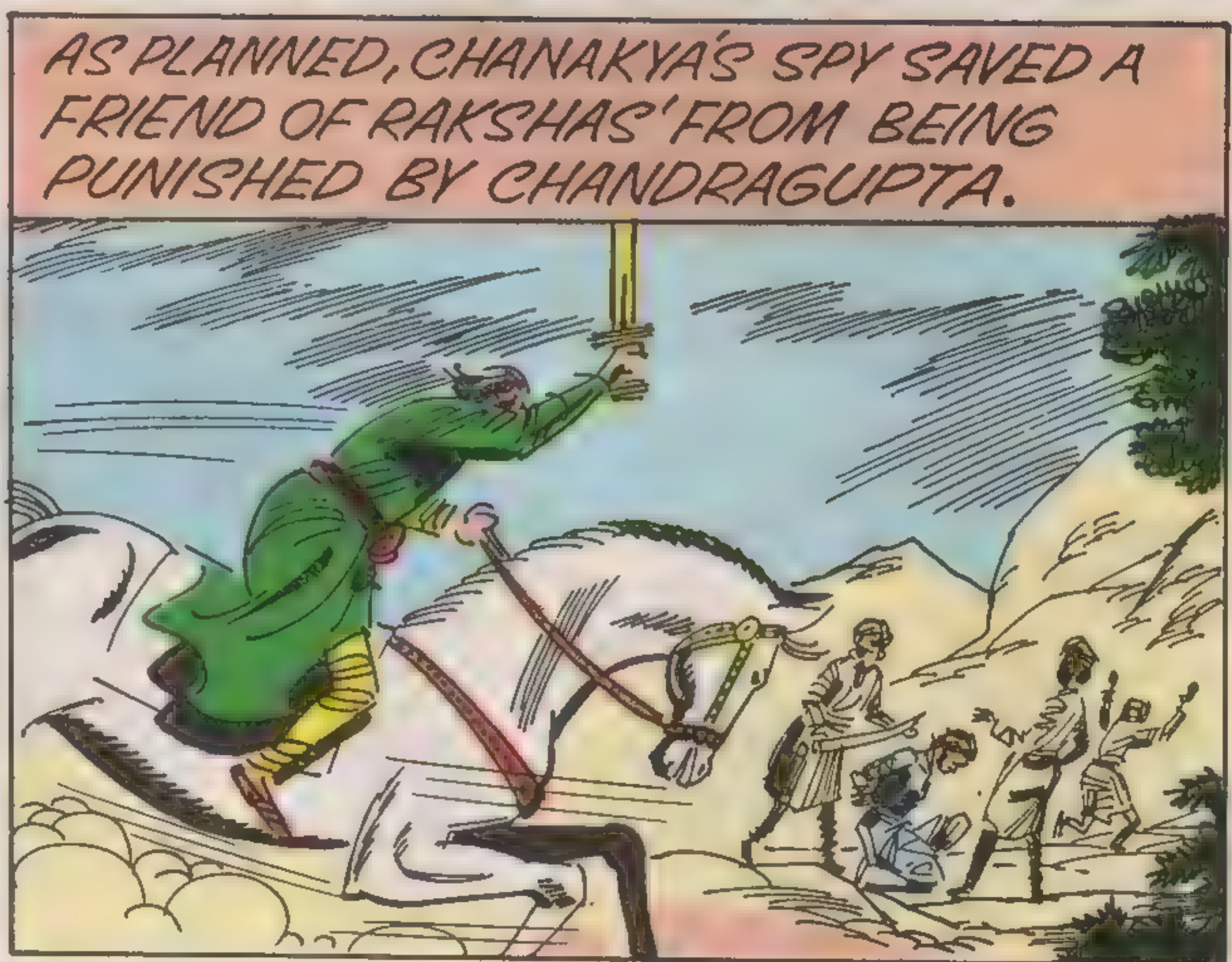


NOW I HAVE GOT YOU, RAKSHAS.

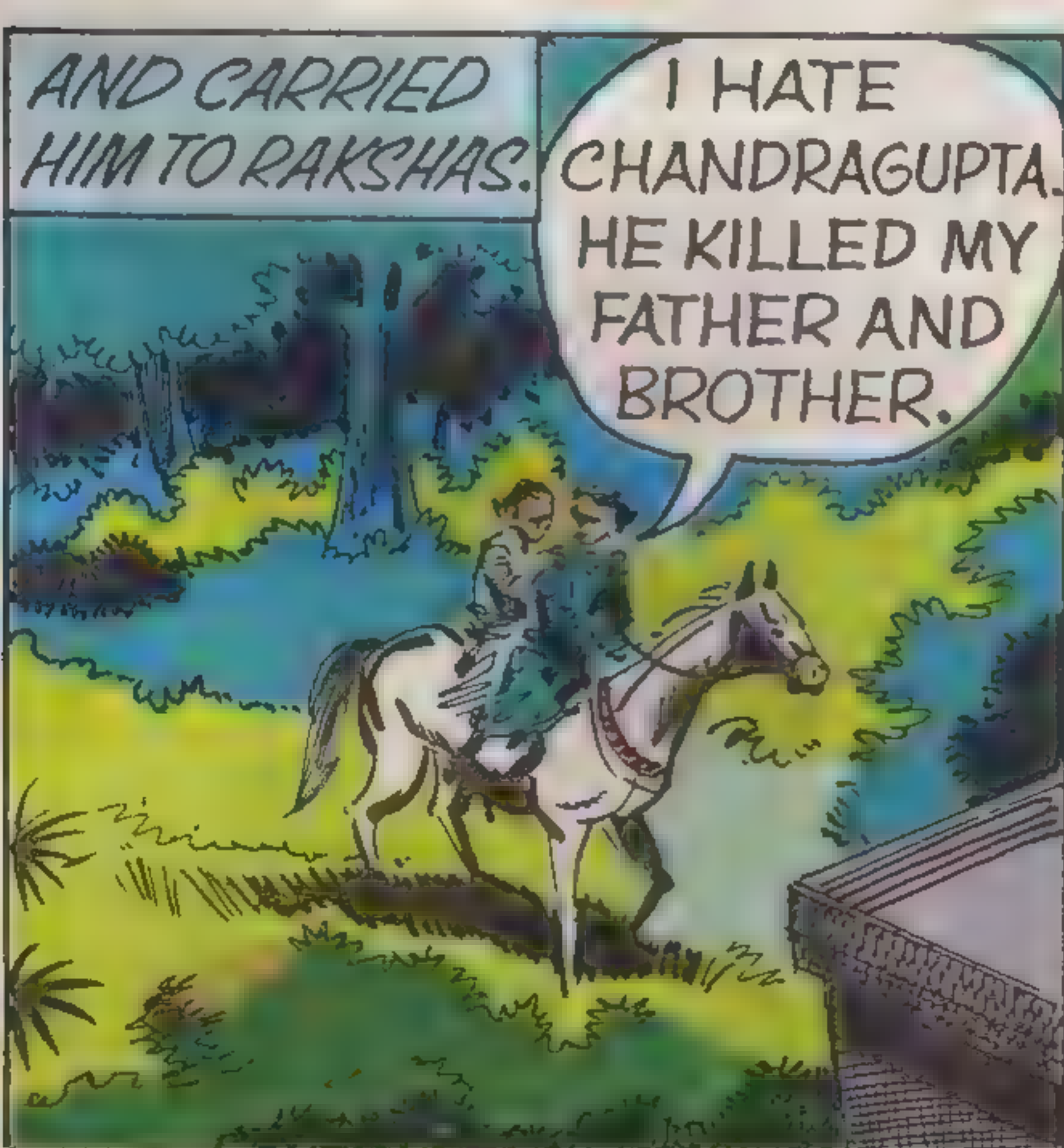


THE LETTER IS READY, SIR

TAKE THE LETTER AWAY AND DO AS I TOLD YOU EARLIER.



AS PLANNED, CHANAKYA'S SPY SAVED A FRIEND OF RAKSHAS' FROM BEING PUNISHED BY CHANDRAGUPTA.



AND CARRIED HIM TO RAKSHAS.

I HATE CHANDRAGUPTA. HE KILLED MY FATHER AND BROTHER.

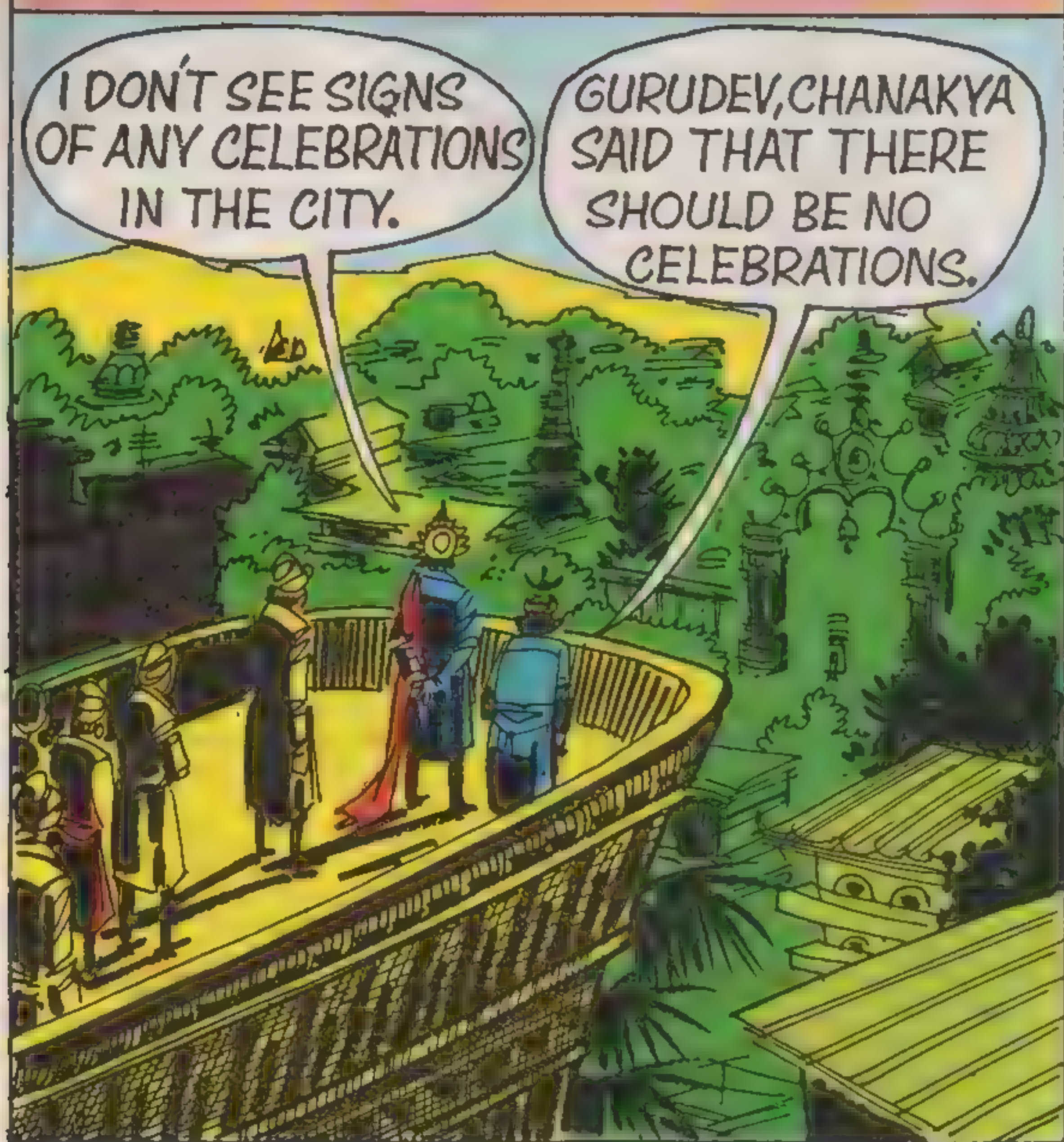


I AM VERY THANKFUL TO YOU. CAN I DO ANYTHING FOR YOU?

I CAN'T GO BACK. LET ME STAY HERE.



MEANWHILE CHANDRAGUPTA HAD DECLARED THAT HIS VICTORY SHOULD BE CELEBRATED.

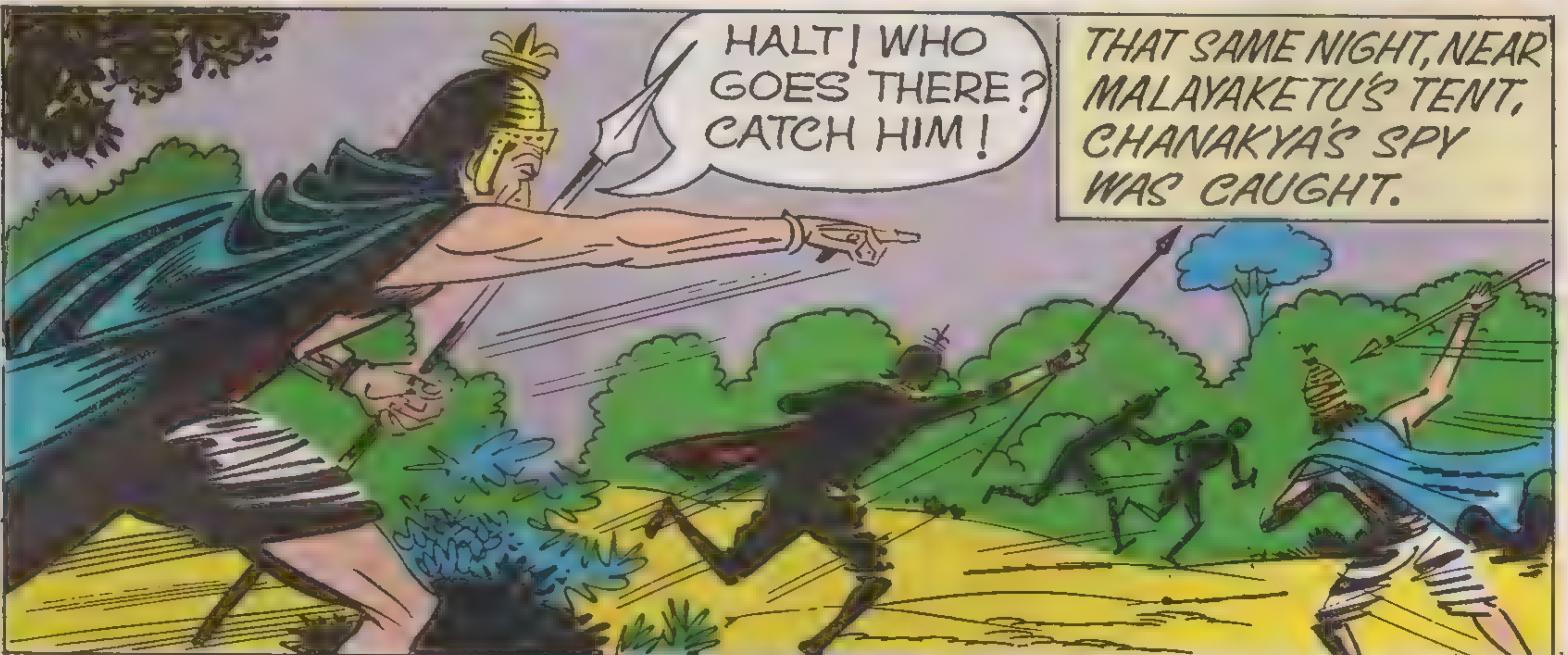




THE ENEMY ALSO CAME TO KNOW OF THE ARGUMENT BETWEEN CHANDRA-GUPTA AND CHANAKYA.

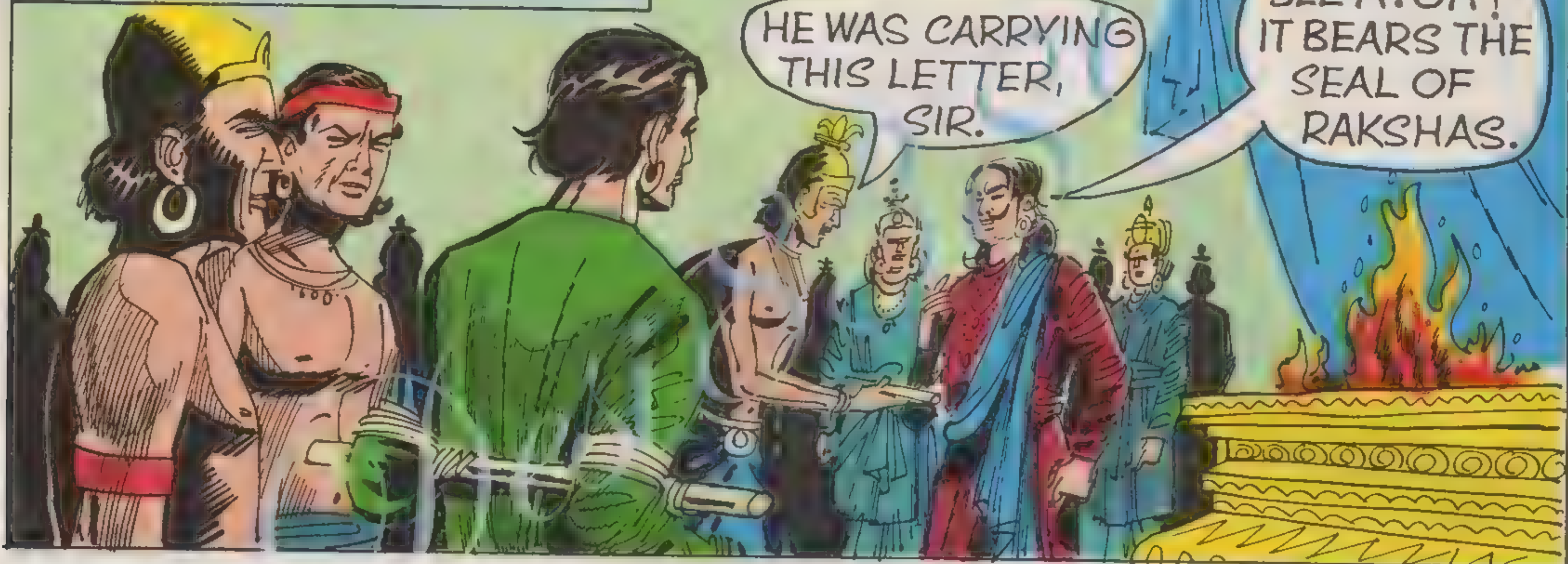
WE SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS SITUATION, KING MALAYAKETU.

YES, WE MUST.



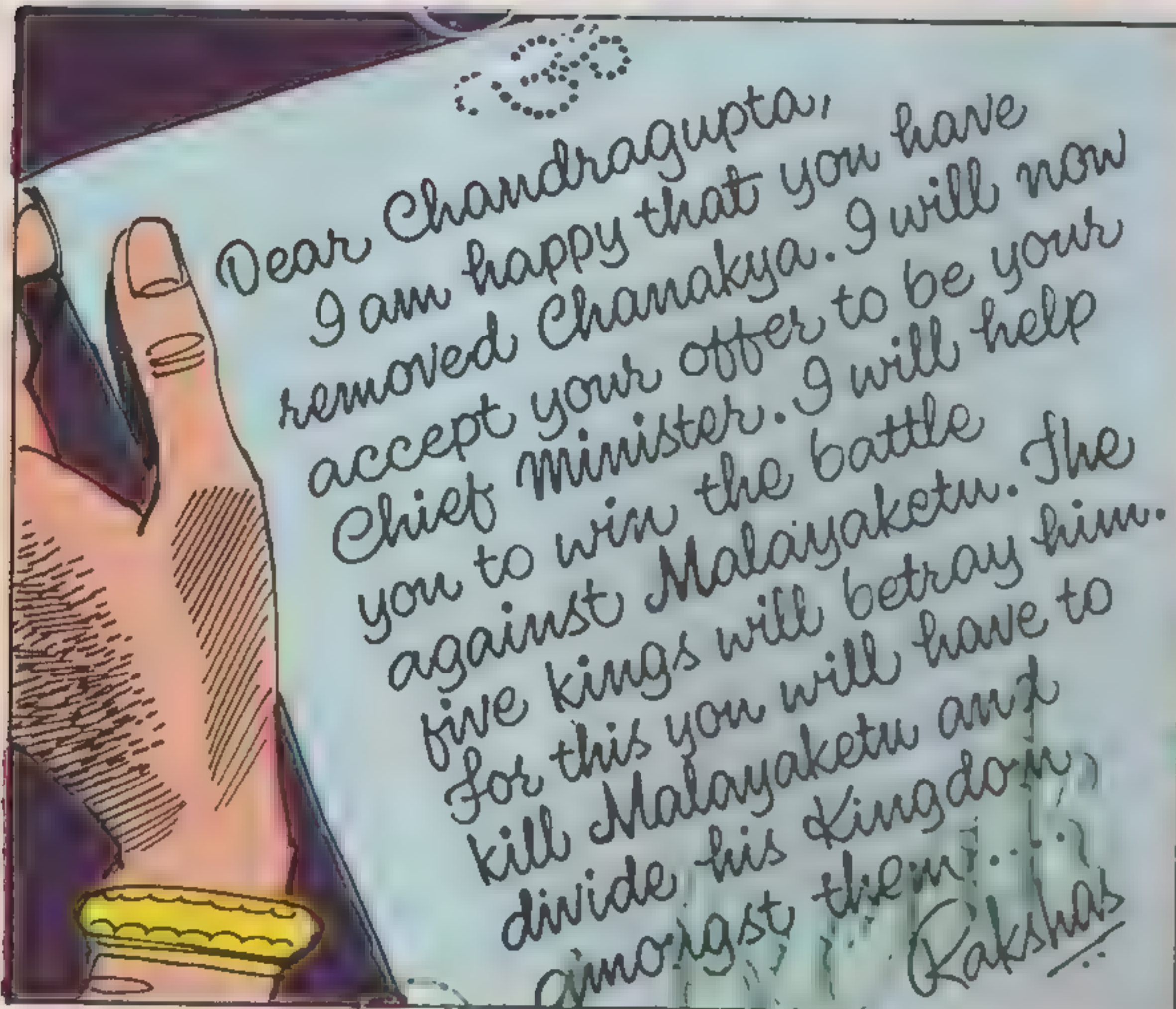


THE SPY ALLOWED HIMSELF TO BE CAUGHT AS PLANNED BY CHANAKYA. HE WAS BROUGHT BEFORE KING MALAYAKETU.



HE WAS CARRYING THIS LETTER, SIR.

LET ME SEE IT. OH! IT BEARS THE SEAL OF RAKSHAS.

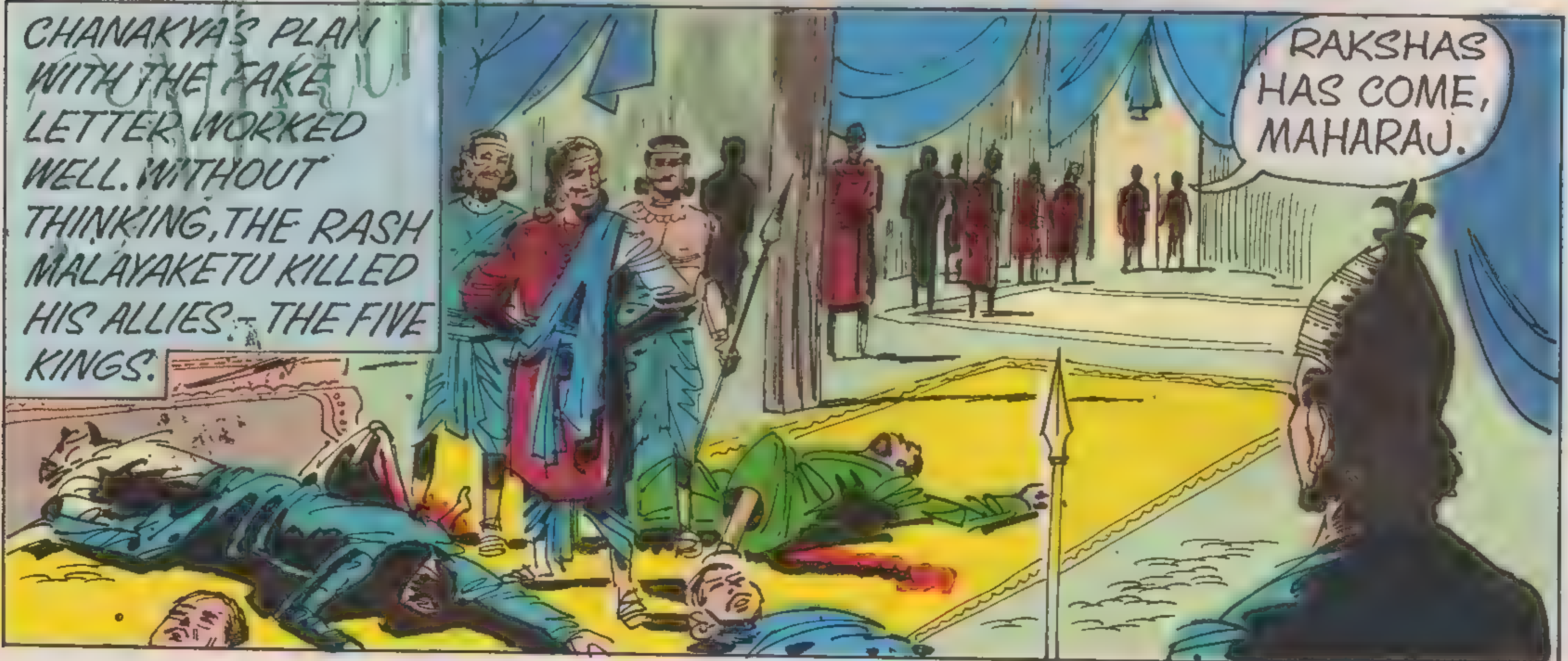


Dear Chandragupta,  
I am happy that you have removed Chanakya. I will now accept your offer to be your Chief Minister. I will help you to win the battle against Malayaketu. The five kings will betray him. For this you will have to kill Malayaketu and divide his kingdom amongst them.  
Rakshas



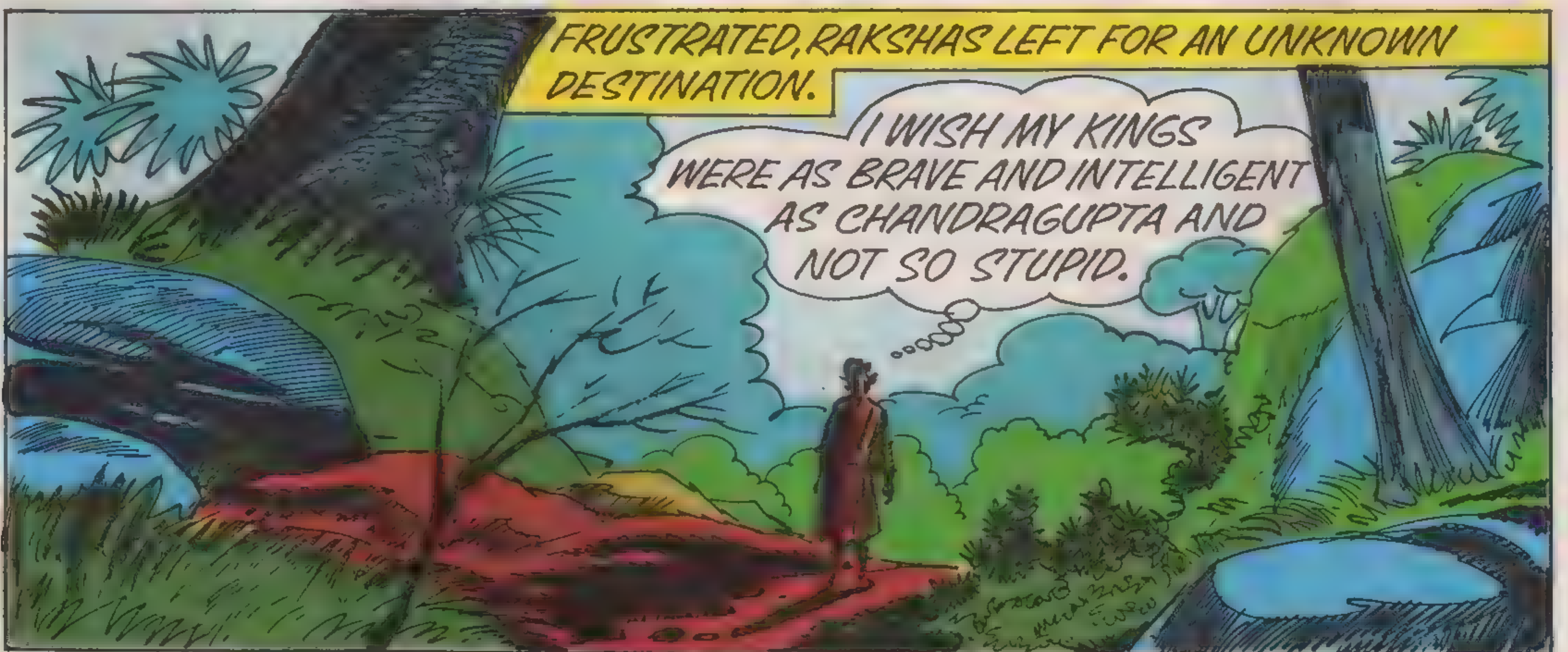
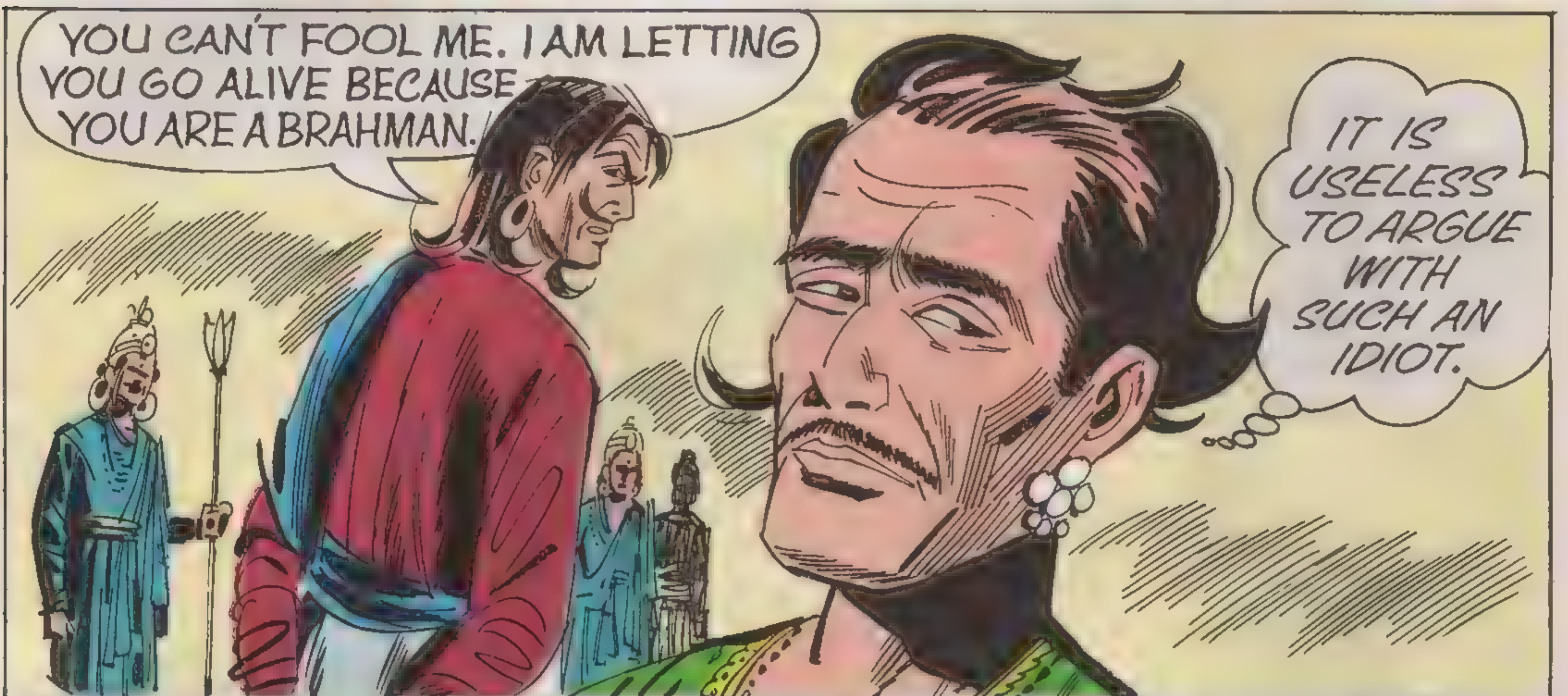
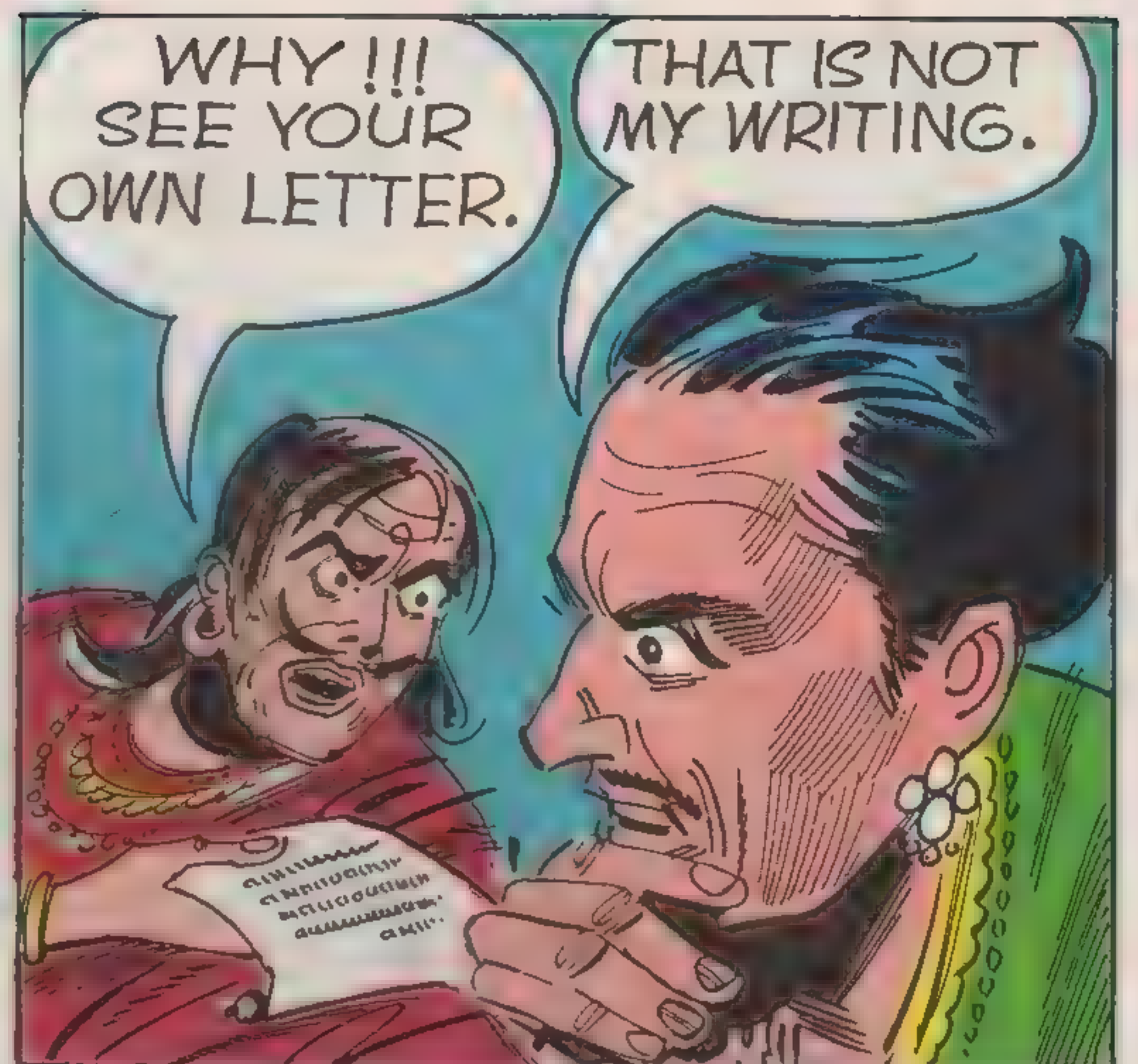
TRAITORS!  
SO THEY WANT MY KINGDOM!  
GUARDS!

CHANAKYA'S PLAN WITH THE FAKE LETTER WORKED WELL. WITHOUT THINKING, THE RASH MALAYAKETU KILLED HIS ALLIES - THE FIVE KINGS.

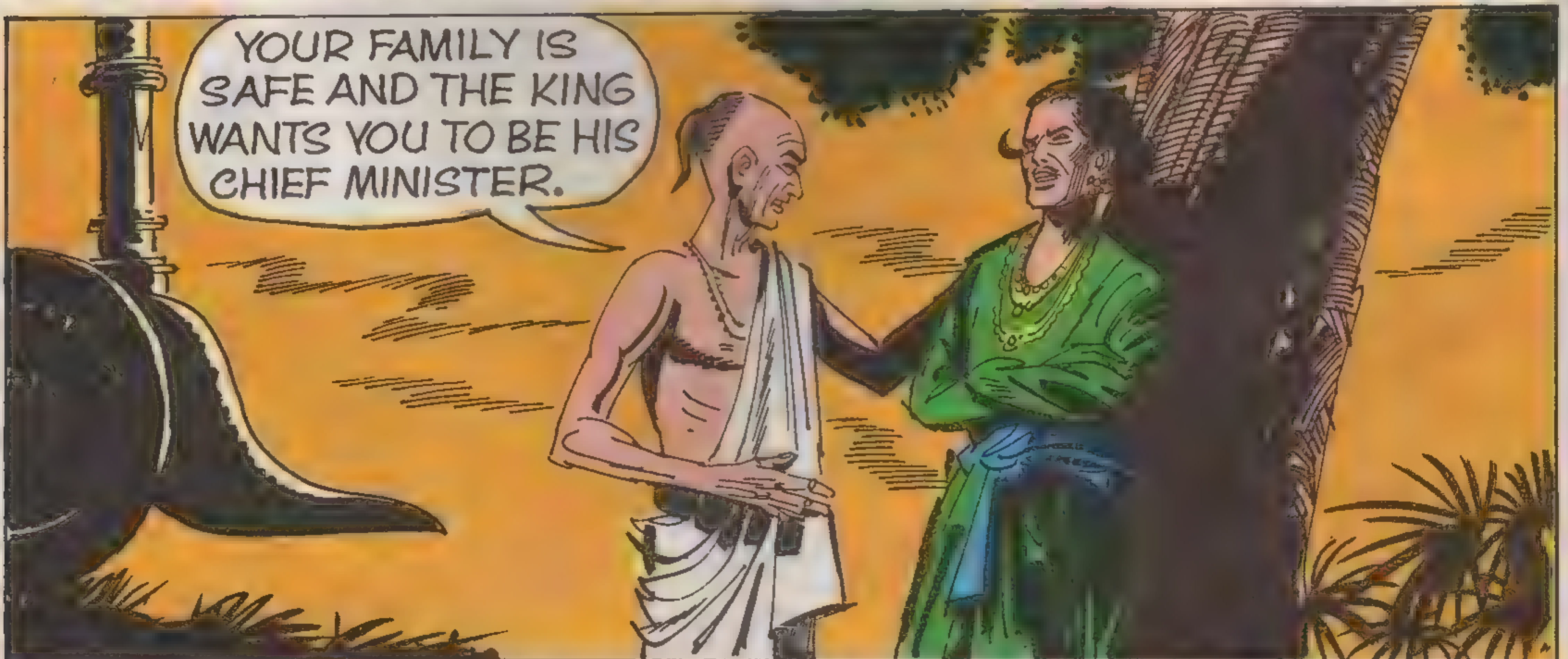
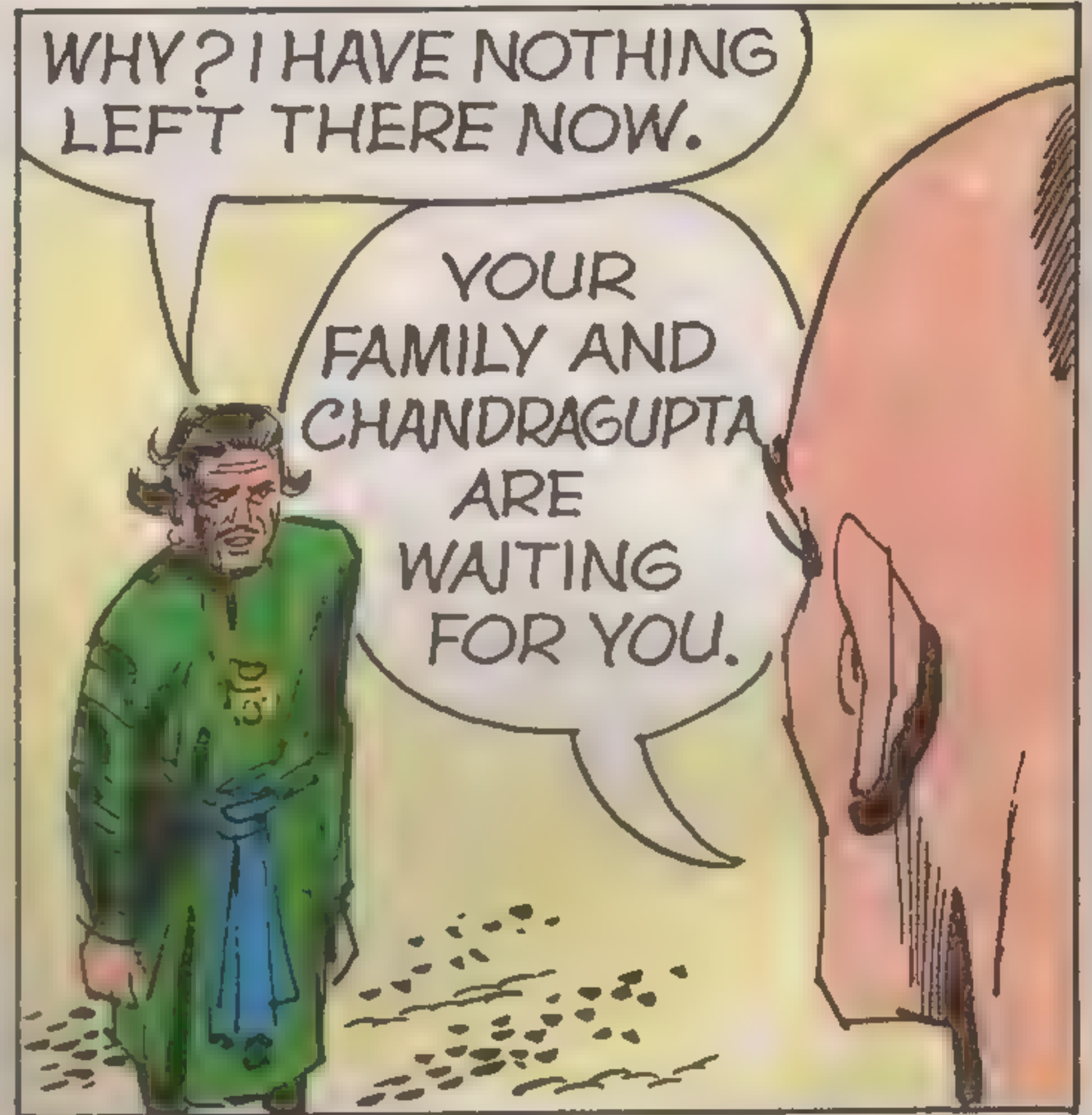


RAKSHAS HAS COME, MAHARAJ.

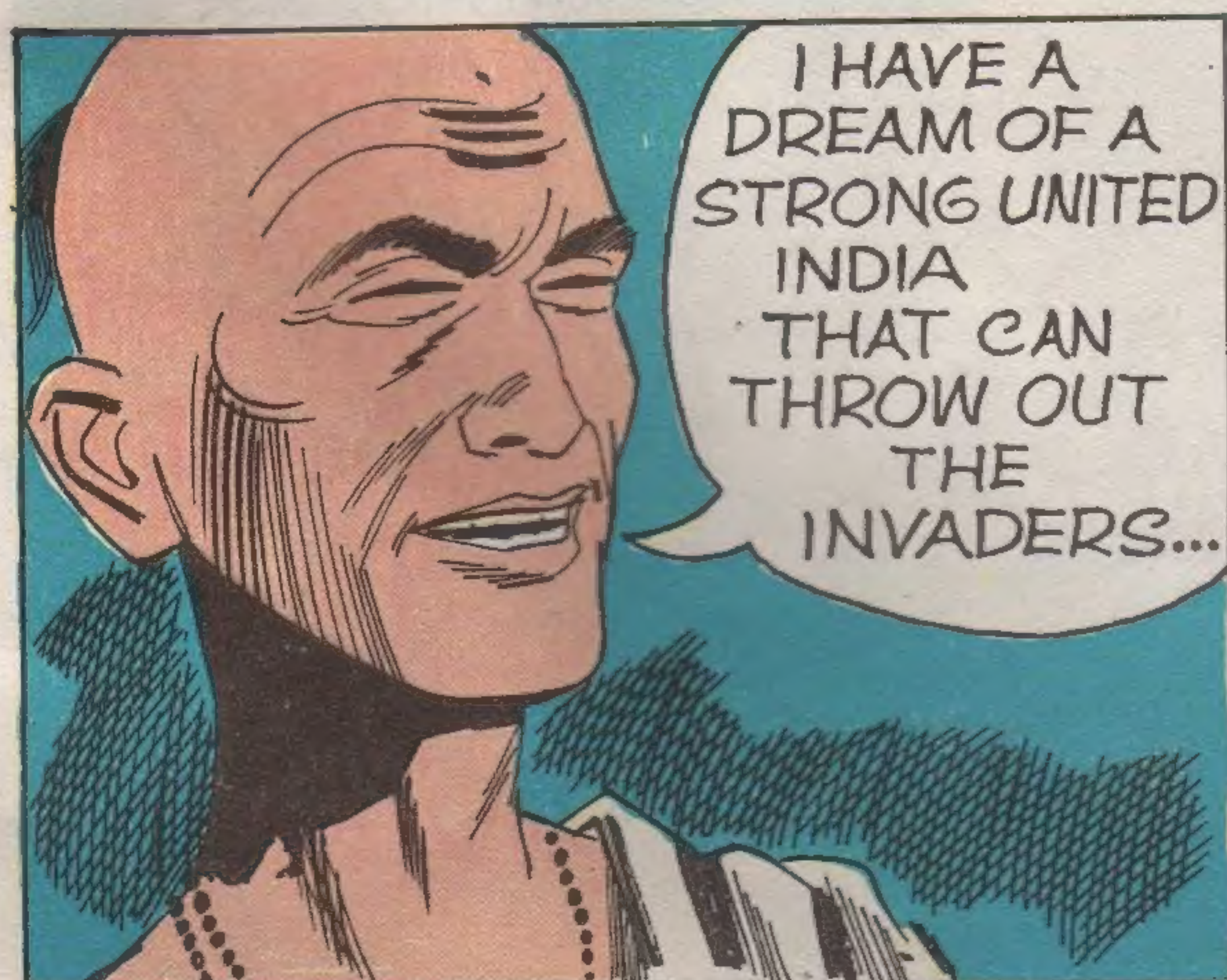
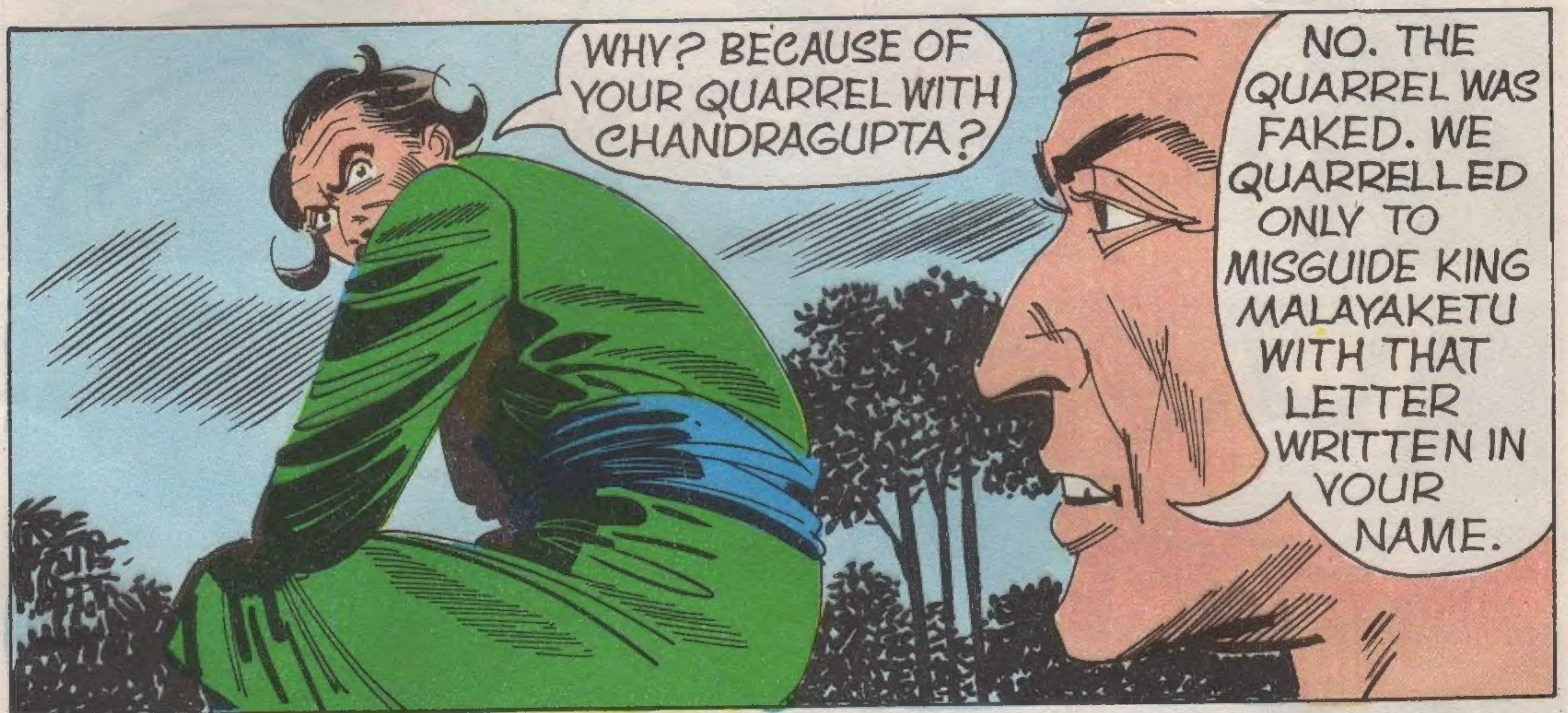






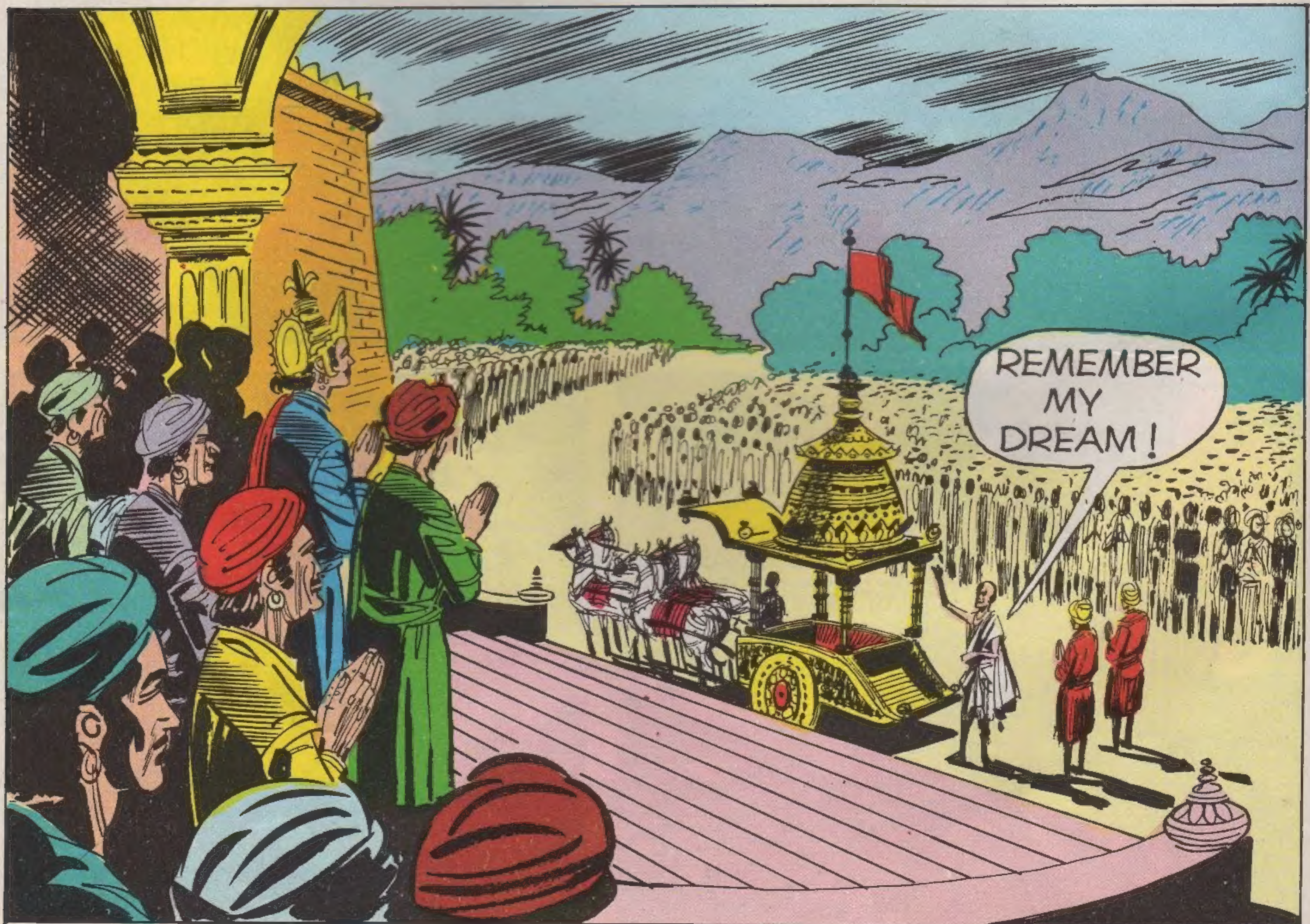






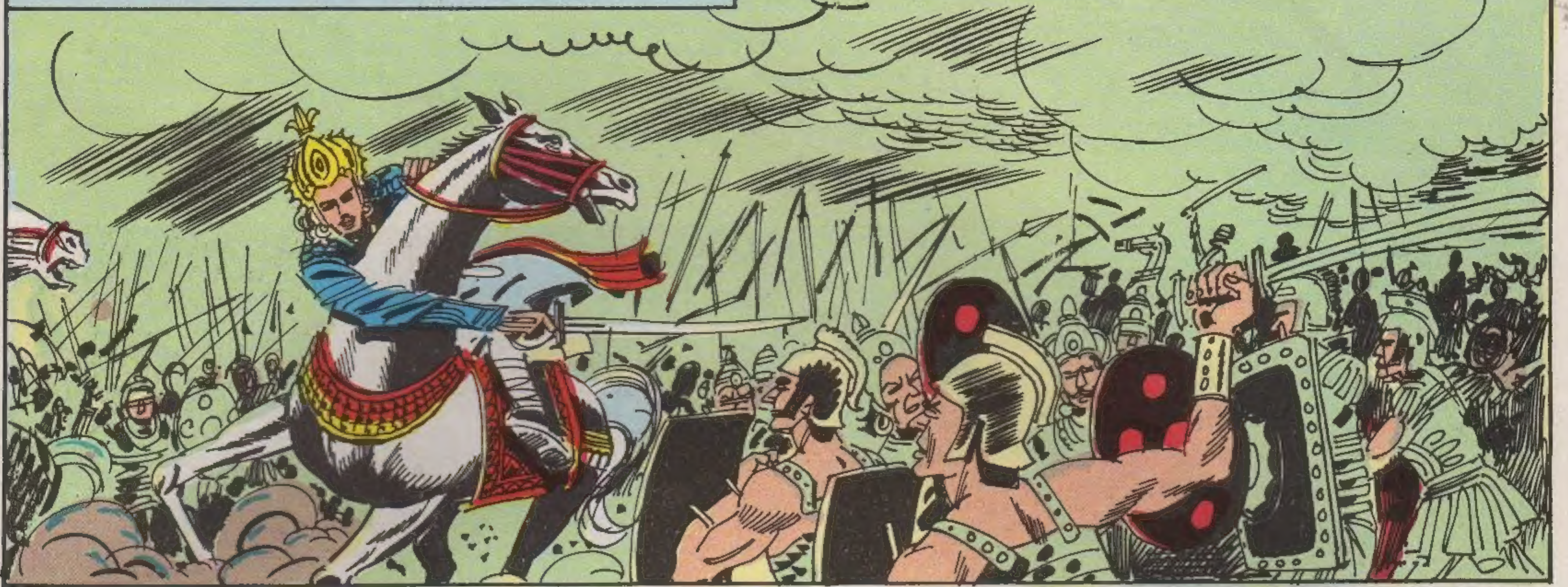


AFTER RAKSHAS BECAME CHANDRAGUPTA'S CHIEF MINISTER, CHANAKYA DECIDED TO LEAVE.

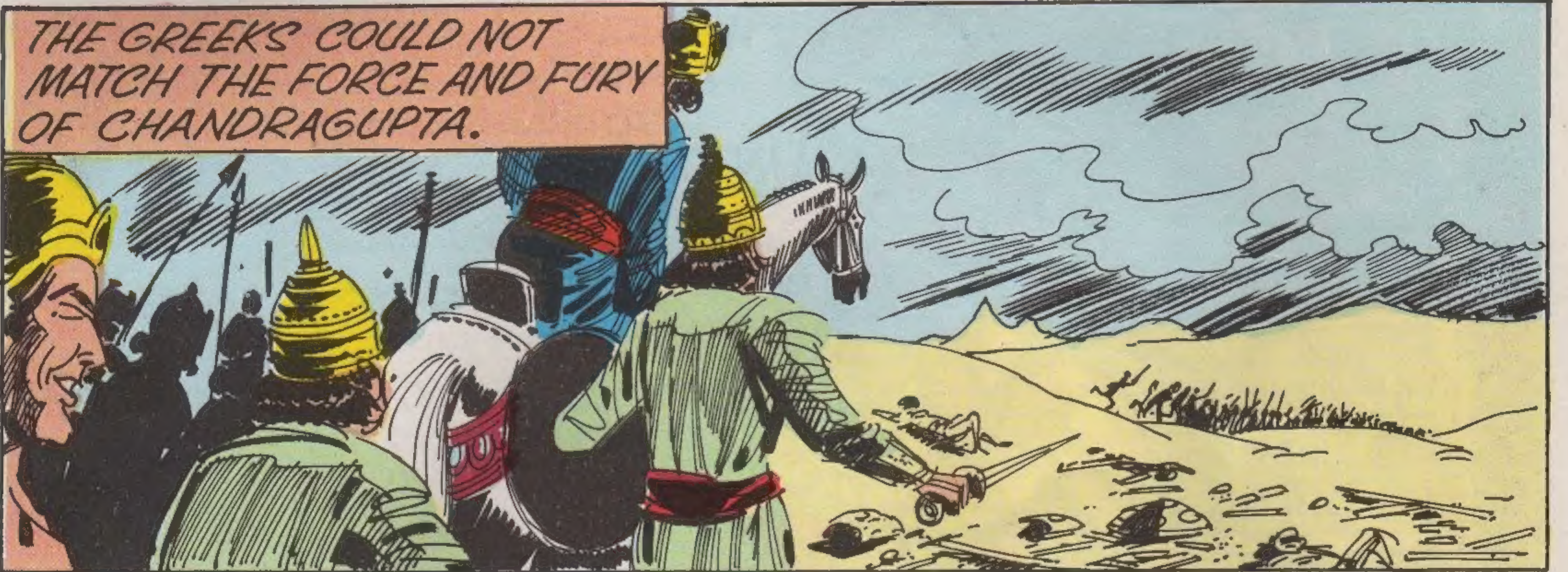




AFTER BUILDING A STRONGER EMPIRE, CHANDRAGUPTA DECLARED  
WAR ON THE GREEK INVADERS.



THE GREEKS COULD NOT  
MATCH THE FORCE AND FURY  
OF CHANDRAGUPTA.



CHANDRAGUPTA  
DEFEATED THE  
GREEKS AND  
MARRIED THE  
DAUGHTER OF  
THEIR LEADER,  
SELEUCUS.





CHANAKYA LEFT ACTIVE POLITICS AND WENT BACK TO HIS ASHRAM TO TEACH. HE WROTE THE BOOK CALLED "KAUTILYA ARTHASHASTRA" WHICH EVEN TODAY IS CONSIDERED AN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CLASSIC.

